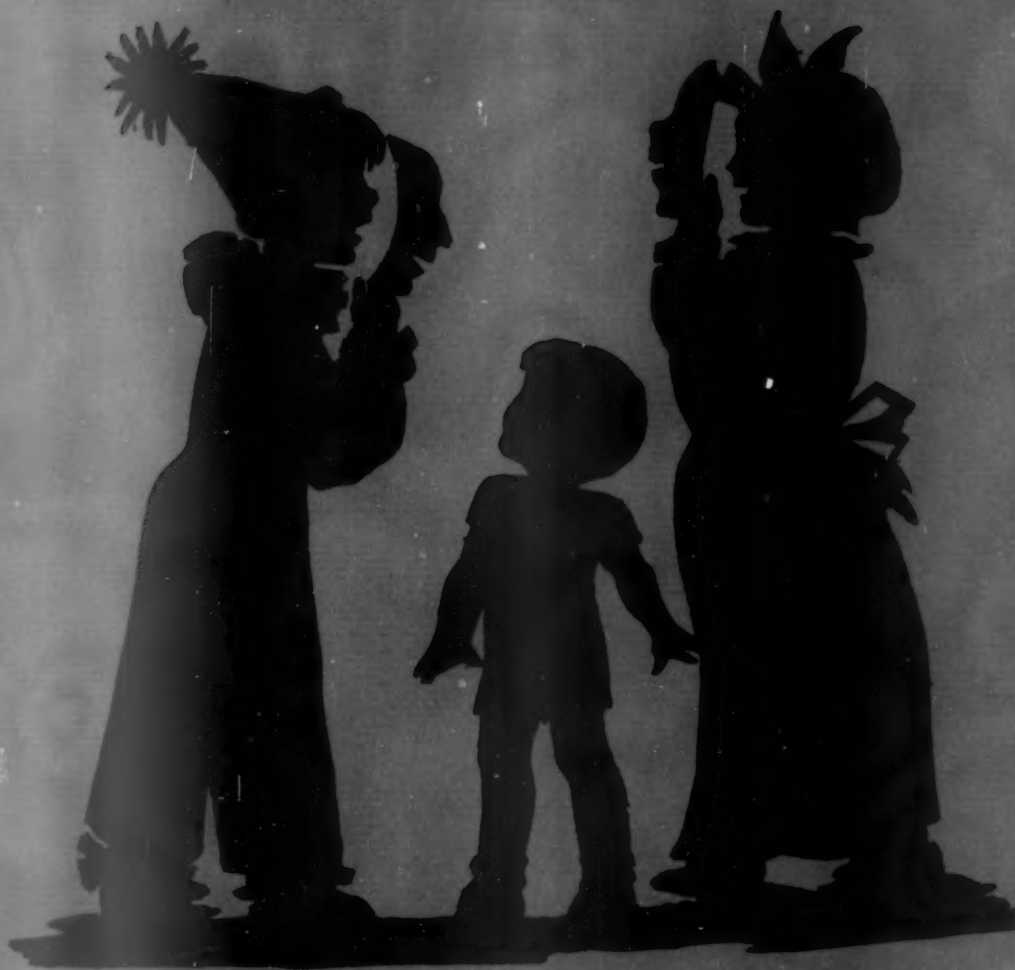


RECREATION

October 1947



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RECREATION

in October 1947

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VOLUME FORTY-ONE, NUMBER SEVEN



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 26, 1947

Dear Mr. Braucher:

It gives me great pleasure to extend hearty felicitations and warmest personal greetings to the members of the Twenty-ninth National Recreation Congress, to be held in New York City.

It is decidedly in the interest of the National welfare that so many local recreation agencies in cities, countries and towns, are providing the leadership and the financial backing necessary to insure wholesome recreation facilities.

The right of children to play, to sing and to dance; the right of youth to sport for sport's sake; the right of men and women to use leisure in the pursuit of happiness in their own way, are basic to our American heritage.

The National Recreation Congress can perform a constructive service in providing for the exchange of information and experience between leaders, interpreting recreation needs to the nation, and helping to weld together all those of good will who are working in unity for the enrichment of life through recreation.

The role of the National Recreation Association is therefore of the utmost importance. I share the hope that the forthcoming Congress will again be the means for strengthening and expanding this essential part of American life.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) HARRY TRUMAN

Mr. Howard Braucher,
President
National Recreation Association,
315 Fourth Avenue,
New York 10, New York

October



Courtesy Board of Education, Chicago, Illinois

Recreational Growing Pains

THE RECREATION BUDGET for Lock Haven, a city of 12,000 to 13,000 inhabitants, was exactly \$800 in 1946. It had been \$800 a year for almost as many years as the members of the Playground Committee could remember. The committee, which had been originated some 35 years earlier by the Civic Club, an organization of community-minded women, had been drawing \$500 from the city and \$300 from the school district to maintain a system of five supervised playgrounds which were kept open for two months each summer. Everyone admitted that the results were a bargain for the amount of money invested.

During the war, however, the question arose: Was the investment big enough for the results that recreation should produce?

Some other questions were asked, too.

A few years earlier the city had been given the title to a site which existed as a hole in the ground when it became municipal property. Gradually, as the depression was filled up, citizens began to urge faster action to develop it into the park-playground envisioned by the donor. As soon as the war ended, citizens who wanted to see the community widen its facilities for youthful recreation prodded the city and the school district and the Playground Committee for prompt action. They wanted more action than could be financed on \$800 a year.

As the fruit of their well-timed prodding, led by a committee of the Rotary Club, Lock Haven, in the current year, has a recreation budget of \$12,000, a staff of 15 recreational leaders, eight supervised play centers, a teen canteen under supervision and a music program which has developed a community band and a beginners' band in addition to providing instruction in stringed instruments for people looking forward to organizing a community orchestra.

The program has developed a four-team midget baseball league of boys from 8 to 12 years of age, whose games attract crowds so large that three additional bleacher sections have had to be built

By REBECCA F. GROSS
Chairman, City Recreation Board
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

since the season opened, and it also embraces four baseball leagues for adolescents and young adults.

Under the schedule of activity inaugurated early in May by the Recreation Board appointed in March, 500 children of the public and parochial schools were taught to swim; and the municipal beach was expanded and improved with a doubled staff of lifeguards and much new equipment.

Concentrating on the facilities which needed development and aiming to fill the most glaring of existing needs, the Recreation Board enlisted the cooperation of such bodies as the Red Cross, the service clubs, and individual citizens, as well as the city administration and the school system, to help

finance and carry out its aims without duplicating existing activities and facilities.

The Recreation Board, established under a city ordinance, is composed of five citizens, two of whom are members of the School Board, as required by state law. The chairman is a newspaper editor, the only woman on the board. The other members are a banker and three business men, one of whom is a member of City Council, the Municipal Director of Parks and Public Property. Another is a former Council member who also held the parks post during his term of office.

Meeting once a month, with their meetings open to the public, this Board has worked in close cooperation with the school authorities. Its first move was to obtain the appointment of a high school physical education teacher as a recreation director for the summer season under legislation providing state aid for community recreation. Its second major action was to purchase the basic equipment necessary to carry out a large share of a plan drawn up by playground experts for development of the erstwhile hole-in-the-ground into a central play-

Recreation is not the exclusive property of the big cities throughout the country. There are many small towns and villages and rural areas doing equally fine jobs of bringing recreation to the people in their communities. Presented in this issue of RECREATION are several articles about the recreation developments in some of these smaller localities.

field which could become the keystone of the recreation program for children and adolescents.

The funds available to the Board were a \$5,000 appropriation in the city budget, earmarked for development of the large playfield, \$6,000 in state and city school funds, earmarked for supervision, about a thousand dollars in the treasury of the Playground Committee and another thousand dollars from various other sources, including a sum appropriated by the local Red Cross chapter to pay the salaries of two lifeguards at the bathing beach.

As the program has worked out, additional money has been spent on it by volunteer independent organizations, whose enthusiasm over what is being done has led them to raise funds to carry out pet projects which fit into the overall scheme. For instance:

A P.T.A. group in one part of the city enlisted the cooperation of firemen and fraternal organizations to collect a fund, which is now about \$800, to develop a new playground on a five-acre site proffered to the school district for recreational use.

A pass-the-hat collection amounting to \$250 was made by parents of children using the bathing beach to purchase a carload of sand to make an artificial "seashore" on the rocky edge of the river. The high water of next spring will carry the sand away, but the people who took up the collection this year say they will do it again, as often as necessary. They also bought a new diving board, a boat for the lifeguards, beach play equipment and first aid supplies.

The crowds at the Little League baseball games, in a midget diamond equipped with an electric scoreboard, grew so large that the voluntary collections ran as high as \$50 a game and the League's adult advisors paid for additional bleachers. The proceeds of the season are to be used to take the youthful players in a body to see a big league baseball game this fall.

The staff has included, besides the director who supervises the entire program and gives his services cooperatively to any organization which needs his help, the following employees: a director of music who has devoted his time to group instruction and band work with both adults and children; an

adolescent leader, working only part time, who has supervised the dancing and games program of the teen canteen (conducted two evenings a week for the past year in the City Hall assembly room); two qualified lifeguards who supervise the beach ten hours a day, seven days a week; ten playground supervisors and assistants who conduct the work of the individual play centers six hours daily, five and a half days a week.

In addition, the program has had the voluntary cooperation of nearly 20 college students who are qualified Red Cross swimming instructors, who have conducted beginners' classes for children in the swimming pool of the Lock Haven State Teachers College. Starting early in May they have taught an average of two classes every two weeks, up to the first of August when the pool was closed for repairs. The pool was also opened an extra hour daily for a month to allow children who had passed the beginners' test to practice their strokes and do free swimming before they tried to swim outdoors.

A young man in the physical education department at the College earned a couple of practice teaching credits during the summer on the playgrounds—with supervision by a member of the College faculty and the director of recreation.

Members of adult baseball teams and former baseball players have given their time to the coaching of the boys' hardball and softball teams.

Playground basketball



Resume

In mid-season, a recapitulation of the activities in progress showed that:

A total of 1,170 children registered at the playgrounds, with an average daily attendance of 500, not including 80 boys in the midget league.

At least 500 children had learned to swim, and the river beach was thronged with an attendance of adults and children, ranging up to 750 on a hot day.

A band of 70 pieces had given three civic concerts, two outdoors and one in the College auditorium. The band played for the Fourth of July celebration two weeks after it was organized. Thirty beginners learned to play band instruments and as many other stringed instruments.

The teen canteen provides social life for young adults who attend its parties regularly, with a turnout ranging from 75 to 175.

Four adolescent and young men's leagues for softball and baseball had a participation of 500 players.

Eighty tennis players registered for cooperative use of the Teachers College courts, while work is done on repairing and improving three courts on city and school-owned property.

There have been disappointments and difficulties in working out the program, with one of the principal obstacles coming from the weather. A wet spring delayed necessary work on grading and conditioning the playgrounds and frequent rains have interrupted the program of activities. When outdoor play was "rained out," however, arrangements were made for the use of the high school gymnasium for indoor play by the older boys, who continued there the games they enjoyed outdoors.

The shortage of lumber and other materials, as well as manpower, made it impossible to provide the tables, benches, shelters and other construction which would have improved the playground programs and expanded the city park where play equipment, picnic facilities and an attractive view of a scenic panorama attract many visitors.

Plans for next year include these things as well as one or more all-weather surface play spaces, so constructed that they can be used to outwit the next rainy summer and can serve in the winter as ice skating rinks. It is also proposed to keep the playgrounds open with minimum supervision throughout the autumn season for after-school use.



Jive masters

Close cooperation with the Physical Education Department of the Teachers College is being developed, with the idea that the recreation program can be used by the College to give supervised practice teaching opportunities to its students, and the faculty of the College can be drawn into the recreation work as consultants and advisors. The state's extension program will also be used through the winter and it is planned to continue the music program and provide similar opportunities in dramatics.

It is the plan of the Lock Haven Recreation Board, with the cooperation of interested community agencies such as the Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., the sports leagues, the little theater, the Teachers College, to develop a comprehensive recreation program tailored to fit the tastes and needs of the community. To that end, a recreational survey will be made this fall by the Board, using College faculty and advanced students for interviewing.

Mental health is the ability to live with people happily, productively, and acceptably, stated Dr. George Preston of the Maryland Board of Mental Hygiene, speaking at a conference recently in Baltimore, Md. All who work on mental troubles agree that recreation has a very large part in the prevention of mental diseases.

Small Town Art Exhibits

By STANLEY ROUGH

Recreation Director

Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited
Arvida, P. Q.

OUR TOWN, ARVIDA, site of the largest aluminum plant in the world, is situated in the historic Saguenay district of the old Province of Quebec. In this city of 9,000 there are over 100 community organizations of all kinds—religious, recreational, educational, cultural, and fraternal. In 1942 a recreation center was built for the citizens. It is operated by the Arvida Athletic Association, Incorporated.

Arvida is an up-to-date, progressive, model town, but like most small towns it cannot support some of the organizations associated with large cities, an art gallery for example. Nevertheless we have art exhibitions. They started when a local citizen asked a simple question. The president of the athletic association expressed regret that it was difficult to see good paintings, as the nearest art galleries were located at Quebec and Montreal several hundred miles away. There seemed, too, to be so many things to do when one visited the bright lights that a visit to the galleries was generally overlooked. The scope and outlook of the athletic association is much broader than the name implies and the matter brought up by the president was turned over to the arts and crafts committee. This group investigated the possibilities of sponsoring a series of art exhibits as a lead-up to the annual hobby show.

They got in touch with the Provincial Museum at Quebec City, the National Gallery of Canada at Ottawa, Ontario, the Art Association of Montreal, and the Canadian Handicraft Guild. The response was prompt and encouraging.

The Exhibits

The first exhibition was supplied by the Canadian Handicraft Guild. It consisted of samplers made by groups of women from six of Canada's nine provinces, various types of European needle-

work, and a display of wood carving. Each sampler showed the Provincial Coat-of-Arms, or the various industries of the Province. Workmanship, design, and use of color were outstanding. The wood carving section showed how to make the simple tools required, and several exhibits illustrated the progressive steps in the production of the completed model. Local craft groups and members of women's farm clubs were especially interested.

The next display came from the National Gallery. Its director sent two shows: *What an Art Center Can Do for Your Community*, and a *Silk Screen Exhibition of Famous Canadian Paintings*. The art center display consisted of a series of panels with excellent pictures and a text showing the development of art in its many forms throughout the ages; its expression in community life; and how the interest in drawing, painting, decorating and designing can be stimulated. The silk screen prints were like those supplied by the National Gallery to thousands of Army, Navy, and Air Force barracks and canteens during the war. We felt that people would be interested in knowing something about the process, so the instructor of our adult education art class made an illustrated poster showing eight steps in the silk screen process. Frankly, the response was more than we anticipated. People came as far as 30 miles to see the exhibition. In three days it was seen by 2,000 adults and 1,500 school children.

The National Gallery next sent along 37 water colors by the Canadian Society of Painters, and the response was just as enthusiastic. In connection with this exhibit four oils by René Richard of Baie St. Paul, a contemporary Canadian painter, supplied added local interest.

These exhibitions were held in the late winter and early spring. This seems to be the ideal time, as people have leisure time before gardening and summer activities begin. Each exhibition is open and two people are on hand to act as a reception committee. The committee is provided with full information on the artists, and mimeographed programs are available for those interested. No admission is charged, and the exhibits are publicized in the local press and over the radio.

The final exhibit in 1946 was our most pretentious one. In October the Provincial Government of Quebec sent us their famous exhibition entitled *A Century of Canadian Art*. It consisted of 57 oils, valued at \$35,000, and contained the works of many famous artists.

The curator of the Provincial Museum came to Arvida before the opening and personally supervised the hanging of the paintings and the installa-

tion of supplementary lighting. He also gave two illustrated lectures, *Maria Chapdelaine*, and *Legends of the St. Lawrence*. Because of the importance of the exhibition we decided to operate for 10 days and to issue a printed program. The curator supplied the information on the various artists, and enough advertising was sold to cover printing costs. Programs were sold at 10 cents and brought in considerable revenue. As our population is English and French speaking, our programs and publicity are bi-lingual. Again the response was heartwarming. Four thousand adults and 1,500 school children visited the show. Local school authorities sent the older children with their teachers who prepared short talks to give to their classes. Many people came back three or more times to see the exhibit. Afterwards many could tell the exact location of the pictures.

We are not gullible to believe that we have thousands of art lovers in our community. We do know, however, that 75 percent of those who

visited our exhibits made a special effort to attend, many coming a considerable distance. All those who came showed interest. Those on duty reported that no attempts were made to handle the paintings and the "no smoking" regulation in force in the hall where the exhibit was displayed was respected by the visitors.

We are fortunate in having excellent facilities for display. But then, almost any community has suitable facilities such as a community or school hall. Additional lighting is a minor problem. We use heavy paper to cover the walls to provide a suitable background. In each case our only expense was the transportation of the exhibits and the insurance of the paintings while in our possession. One main exhibition, with a program with paid advertising, can cover a budget for a season.

For 1947 we are planning a display of hooked rugs, the Canadian Artists Exhibition (oils) and a one-man-show by a famous Canadian artist. It can be done by writing your nearest Art Gallery.

Interested visitors at Arvida's art show



Courtesy Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd.

29th NATIONAL RECREATION CONGRESS

THE MEN'S COLLARS were high and stiff beneath tightly buttoned suit coats, the women's skirts were long and their "shirtwaists" delicate and billowy in 1908 when the Second Annual Congress of what was then the Playground Association of America convened at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Since that date 26 Congresses have been held, with such cities as Washington, D. C., Los Angeles, California, and Cleveland, Ohio, playing host. The week of October 13-17 marks the return of the National Recreation Congress to the Empire City—this time not to the Museum but to the skyscraping Hotel New Yorker.

Down through the years Congresses have been held in January, May, June, July, September and October, with October proving by far the most popular. Dates for the Congress, like many other aspects, have not been selected arbitrarily at the whim of the Committee, but have been decided upon according to the wishes of the delegates. In reality, planning for the next Congress begins as soon as the last delegates have boarded trains and buses and headed homewards, probably with weary feet but certainly with uplifted and renewed recreation spirit.

Following the 1946 Congress held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, a questionnaire was mailed to all who had been in attendance. All phases of the Congress were checked with reference to the time for holding it, the nature of the program, the length of the Congress, the topics to be covered and various other aspects. Replies were received from nearly 500 delegates from all parts of the country and all parts of the recreation field.

As a result of this referendum October was determined as the preferred time of year and five

days was considered the right length for the Congress (this by a very large majority). The present method of using summarizers was retained according to the expressed sentiments and the delegates generally preferred to have a large number of sectional meetings.

Those replying to the questionnaire also indicated that they would like to have an opportunity to see as many recreation films as possible. The committee has arranged for motion pictures to be shown each afternoon Monday through Thursday from 4:15 to 5:30 in the Panel Room of the New Yorker. Delegates who have 16 mm. movies of local recreation programs are urged to bring them to the Congress so that possible arrangements might be made for showing them.

A number of delegates also expressed the hope that there would be an increased opportunity for new workers to meet old workers. This will be possible not only at the meetings, but at the square and social dancing events in the evening and through consultation. Ed Durlacher will lead square dancing on Monday night, October 13 and the annual Congress dance will take place Wednesday evening.

In addition to the checking of questions, the Congress Committee had the benefit of a great many very thoughtful letters making suggestions on details and on general policies. Many delegates in their letters expressed deep satisfaction with the spirit that prevails at the Recreation Congress and of the unifying influence it has on the whole movement.

Also commended by a number of delegates was the essential nature of the Congress in being a medium for exchanging information and experiences. Many urged that this feature be kept and no attempt be made to make the Congress a legislative body for fear that some of its present benefits would be lost.

"East Side, West Side"

Delegates this year will have an opportunity to see some of the public park and recreation facilities offered New Yorkers by means of a specially arranged tour. This tour, which will be made by bus, will begin Wednesday afternoon, October 15, at 2 P.M. and sightseers will return to the hotel at 6 P.M. The itinerary includes a view of playgrounds, pools, golf courses, ball fields, the Bronx Park Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Orchard Beach and several of the Central Park facilities.

The general speakers on the opening night of the Congress will be Dr. Henry S. Leiper, Executive Secretary, the American Committee for the World



Dean William F. Russell



Dr. Henry Smith Leiper



Robert Moses

Council of Churches and Walter S. Mack, Jr., President of the Pepsi-Cola Company.

"Recreation and the Atomic Age" is the subject to be discussed Tuesday night by Dr. William F. Russell, Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University.

Robert Moses, Chief Executive of the City and State Park Systems of New York, will speak on "Parks and Recreation in New York" Wednesday evening and will open the floor to questions at the end of his talk.

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, Under Secretary, Department of Interior, will speak Thursday evening. The Brooklyn Dodgers Knothole Four, winners of the 13th annual city-wide American Ballad Contest for barber shop quartets, will also be featured.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5:30 P.M., Miss Steffi Nossen of the Steffi Nossen School of the Dance, Larchmont, N. Y., will present demonstrations and short lectures on modern dance in recreation. On Tuesday afternoon from 4:15 to 5:30 the New York City Park Department will present a marionette and magic show. On Tuesday and Thursday from 4:15 to 5:30 and after the general evening sessions there will be folk and square dancing.

Another important feature of the Congress is the section devoted to exhibits. The funds derived from the space sold to manufacturers and publishers and other commercial organizations help defray the cost of the Congress and the exhibits play a large part in the activities by giving recreation workers a chance to meet representatives of companies with whom they may already be in contact or with whom they may wish to transact business at some future time. The Congress Committee urges all delegates to take time to visit the exhibits and examine the products displayed.

Five manufacturers displayed exhibits at the 1908 Congress. This year there are 29 exhibitors and a booth devoted to a combined book exhibit in which nine publishing firms are participating. The exhibitors and their booth numbers are as follows:

Ackley, Bradley and Day	
Sewickley, Pennsylvania	Booth 12
F. Ellwood Allen Organization, New York City....	Booth 8
American Handicrafts Co., Inc.	
East Orange, N. J.....	Booth 1
A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc.	
New York City	Booth 14
Association of American Playing Card	
Manufacturers, New York City	Booth 31
The Athletic Institute, Chicago, Illinois.....	Booth 13
Beach and Pool, New York City.....	Booth 10
Boizelle and Eisinger Corporation,	
Rockville, Maryland	Booth 30
J. E. Burke Co., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.....	Booth 5
Childcraft, Quarrie Corporation, Chicago, Illinois..	Booth 7
Coca Cola Company, Atlanta, Georgia.....	Booth 32
Copperweld Steel Company	
Mt. Vernon, New York	Booth 21
Everlast Sporting Goods Manufacturing Co.	
New York City	Booth 27
Game-Time, Litchfield, Michigan	Booth 15
Hillerich and Bradsby, Louisville, Kentucky.....	Booth 28
Loren Murchison and Co. Newark, New Jersey....	Booth 19
MacGregor Goldsmith, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.....	Booth 23
Magnus Brush and Craft Materials	
New York City	Booth 4
Paddle Tennis Co., Inc., New York City.....	Booth 20
Peda Spray Co., Inc., New York City.....	Booth 22
Pennsylvania Rubber Company	
Jeannette, Pennsylvania	Booth 6
Pepsi-Cola Company, Long Island City, N. Y.	Booth 16
J. E. Porter Company, Ottawa, Illinois.....	Booth 18
Rawlings Manufacturing Company	
St. Louis, Missouri	Booth 17
Universal Handicrafts Service, Inc.	
New York City	Booths 25, 26
W. J. Voit Rubber Corporation	
Los Angeles, California and Chicago, Illinois..	Booth 29
Weaver-Wintark Sales Company	
Shamokin, Pennsylvania	Booth 9
O. S. Wilkinson Company, Washington, D. C.....	Booth 3
Wilson Sporting Goods Company	
Chicago, Illinois	Booth 24

Those participating in the combined book exhibit include the Association Press, C. C. Birchard and Company, Botanic Publishing Company, Bruce Publishing Company, Henry Holt and Company, McGraw Hill, Simon and Schuster, Inc., University of Chicago Press, and the Womans Press.

Industrial Recreation

The Industrial Recreation Conference, held in conjunction with the National Recreation Congress, is scheduled to begin Monday morning, October 13, and will continue through Tuesday, although many delegates may wish to stay for some of the remaining general Congress sessions which will be of interest to them.

Topics for discussion include: industrial recreation and community relations, budgeting and record keeping, activities for women and girls, special activities, management and union cooperation, planning recreation for supervisors and executives.

In addition there will be section meetings on various topics, and a round table discussion will be held on Tuesday afternoon pertaining to current problems on principles, programs, techniques, facilities, values, leadership and other special questions. Program participants in the various industrial recreation sections include representatives from: Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, General Electric Company, Macy's, Sun Oil Company, American Cyanamid — Calco Chemical Division, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Ford Motor Company, Briggs Manufacturing Company, UAW-CIO Recreation Department, Joanna Foundation, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, United Air Lines, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Glenn L. Martin Company, and the Scovill Manufacturing Company.

As usual, proceedings of the entire Congress will be compiled and can be ordered at the Congress.

Community Contacts*

FOR THE BENEFIT of new directors who have joined our staff during the past two weeks, the following is a review of the way community contacts can best be made by each playground director:

Community contacts are highly important in the conduct of a successful recreation program, for it is through this medium that the playground program becomes known throughout the entire neighborhood.

Directors should contact the principals and classroom teachers of neighborhood schools, both public and private.

It is advisable for a director, with the permission of the principal, to go right into a classroom and tell the children about the many activities planned for them. This will bring results in increased participation for both regular and special events. Principals and teachers are concerned with the recreational life of their pupils and are anxious to cooperate with the director.

With the emphasis today upon special youth projects, all agencies are eager to cooperate with this department in planned activities for young people. Describe your program in detail to Parent-Teachers Associations, coordinating councils, service clubs, churches and leaders of private group

work agencies, such as the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., and Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, Woodcraft Rangers, settlements, and the like.

Take every opportunity to discuss the program offered with the parents of the children who frequent the neighborhood playground. In fact, parents are greatly concerned with the activity program and with its leadership.

The program, once planned, should be carried through. Only by consistently following the scheduled activities will the people of the community have faith in our leadership.

Community contacts should be made during hours when activities are at a low ebb on the playground. Often the hour from 1 to 2 P.M. is good since many adult activities take place in the morning, and the children's activities do not begin until later in the afternoon.

It is not good practice for a director to absent himself too frequently from the ground. It is essential for directors to call the central office before leaving to make contacts. District directors should also be notified.

*Los Angeles Recreation Department Weekly Bulletin, October 17, 1946.

Recreation

County-wide*

FOR MANY YEARS there has been considerable talk concerning recreation in Wicomico County. Now for the first time, this county is prepared to match action against words.

Out of a sincere desire to pay tribute to its young men and young women who had so unselfishly answered their country's call in time of need, the people of Wicomico County chose to commemorate their deeds with a living memorial—a memorial that would not only pay tribute to those who left our midst, but a memorial that would serve also to improve immeasurably its present generation and generations to follow, a stirring exemplification of the ideals for which we were fighting. Our memorial was to take the form of a recreational facility second to none: a facility that would answer the recreational needs and desires of the people of Wicomico County, both young and old.

In 1944 a Memorial Committee was organized with a prominent local business man as its head. The Committee's first appeal for funds was made a year later. What was the county's response? More than \$1,750,000 was contributed! A response which clearly demonstrated that the people of Wicomico County were determined to erect a memorial of which they could long be proud.

Last spring the first step toward the realization of this broad program was taken by the erection of a stadium. Other facilities will be added from year to year—including gymnasium, tennis courts, swimming pool, as the price of construction material comes down and such materials become available.

The question might justly be asked: Does the erection of such facilities constitute the prime objective of our memorial program? To this my answer would be "no." Because, thanks to the foresight of the people of this county, there has emerged the realization that such facilities alone would not constitute a living memorial, unless an organized supervised program of recreation was projected into its inner being.

*A speech delivered by John Fern, Director of Recreation of the Wicomico County Commission, at the recent Maryland Conference of Social Welfare.

With such a realization came many long hours of hard work, study and research. Every effort was expended to insure the development of a well-founded county program of recreation. . . . As a result, in August 1945, 18 persons were appointed by the Wicomico County Commissioners to form what is now known as the Wicomico County War Memorial Recreation Commission. Members of this Commission are selected from various sections of the county. At the present time, Showard T. Culver of Hebron, Maryland, a small rural community of 700 people, is serving as chairman of the Commission. Terms of office for the first year were one, two and three years in length. All succeeding appointments are for three years, enabling the Commission to have a majority of experienced members at all times.

Subcommittees

For most efficient operation, the Commission is divided into a series of subcommittees, such as summer playground committee, athletic committee, music and arts committee, special activities committee, stadium committee and program growth and development committee.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility for assisting communities throughout the county in meeting the recreational needs of their respective localities. The program of the Commission does not concern itself with any special age group, but rather it is attempting to meet the leisure time problems of small children, of adolescent boys and girls, of young men and women and of adult men and women. It must concern itself with all these age groups if it is to meet its responsibility. In addition to age and sex groups, every effort is being made to serve religious and racial groups throughout the county.

As so often though, the use of leisure time is not merely the problem of large metropolitan cities; it is not only a problem of finding safe places for children to play, or something for the factory worker to do; it is not simply the concern of any one locality or any one group but rather the use of leisure time. Recreation is the concern of all peoples of all communities, whether they be large cities, small towns or rural districts. Such a philosophy represents a great challenge—one which our Commission hopes to meet by exerting its efforts along the following lines:

1. To discover through research the actual recreational needs and desires of the people of the county.
2. To assist all communities in developing a recreation program to meet these needs.

3. To aid in coordinating and correlating the efforts of all community service agencies, churches and schools in the field of recreation, thus eliminating the present duplication of services and the waste of both volunteer and professional leadership.
4. To supplement, rather than replace, existing programs with additional recreation activities which are needed and desired.
5. To assist as far as possible existing recreation activities in the county, strengthening and enriching their programs.
6. To make available to all organizations, all people, the services of the department in helping to plan or initiate any type of recreational activity, whether it be a private birthday party in the home, a P.T.A. Easter program, a church picnic or a city baseball league.

Such represents the foundation upon which we hope to develop a well-rounded county program of recreation. It is well for an organization to adopt for itself a standard of ideals—yet such a code is worthless unless an honest effort is made to realize these objectives.



Courtesy Recreation Commission, Montclair, N. J.

Accomplishments

It may prove interesting to those present to report briefly on the efforts made by the Commission during its first eight months of operation towards realizing its aforementioned purposes.

As was stated, our first concern was in discovering the types of recreation in which our people were most interested. As a result, more than 3,000 school-age youngsters, both colored and white, were interviewed last fall as to their leisure time interests. Results of this survey now form the basis for the development of our young people's program.

Personal invitations have been sent to thousands of boys and girls throughout the county extending them the opportunity to participate in the many activities that the Commission has organized as a result of its survey. Boys and girls who indicated an interest in basketball, tennis, golf, archery, swimming and other activities are being given the opportunity on an organized basis for the first time. A tremendous task—but one that is paying tremendous dividends.

As a further aid in formulating the county program, a Junior Recreation Council was organized and meetings are being held concerning specific teen-age activities which might be initiated by the Commission.

Our second concern was to establish some medium through which we could coordinate and correlate the efforts of existing social agencies, churches and schools in the field of recreation. After considerable study, an Advisory Council on Recreation was organized, comprised of the professional directors of numerous social agencies and churches. The Council meets monthly to discuss practical ways and means of coordinating their respective programs—thus assuring the county of deriving the most possible value from those agencies represented. Results to date are most gratifying! This group, with the cooperation of our county and state boards of education, was instrumental in having a week's training institute in recreational leadership conducted in Salisbury. More than 37 organizations were represented with a course enrollment well over 200. Our first county-wide hobby show, sponsored by the Girl Scouts in cooperation with the Council, was a tremendous success. More than 100 different hobbies were on display from people residing in 12 different towns throughout the county. This summer, an extensive "learn-to-swim" campaign has been launched in cooperation with the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Many more similar experiences of cooperative action might well be cited if time would permit.

Our next interest lies in making a sincere effort to supplement, rather than replace, existing programs with additional recreation opportunities which are both needed and desired. When our program was initiated last fall, interest ran high in teen-age dances. It appeared to be a wonderful opportunity for the Commission to begin its program with a bang. However, through the Advisory Council, we learned that four churches were planning to conduct such a program through the week end periods. Yes, it was a wonderful opportunity, but we felt the need was being met, and instead of competing with the churches in this endeavor, we learned that teen-age boys and girls were also interested in basketball. No need to explain further what we did. Three church basketball leagues were conducted, serving 12 churches and reaching nearly 300 boys and girls.

A few more examples of such supplemental activities might be cited, such as the operation of 11 summer playgrounds this summer (previously there were none), church music program, elementary school basketball league, civic club volleyball league, tennis tournament, golf tournament, industrial softball league, and so on.

Concerning what we feel as our responsibility to assist existing community programs, we might cite briefly in passing several experiences:

1. Assisting the churches with various youth institutes
2. Organizing and locating facilities for the civic club volleyball and softball leagues, industrial leagues, etc.
3. Conducting song fests for children's programs sponsored by local civic clubs
4. Assisting the County Board of Education with its interscholastic sports programs by providing officials for soccer, fieldball, baseball and similar leagues
5. Assisting the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with courts of honor and courts of awards, surveys, etc.
6. With respect to our sixth objective—in making available the services of the department to all people of the county—there's little need to comment further. I'm sure you all are aware of the services of such a department in providing literature, picnic kits, planning parties and the like. Requests for such services are steadily mounting.
7. Regarding our last purpose, namely, to assist communities in developing a recreation program of their own designed to meet their

local needs and desires, we could go on indefinitely. However, I'll take only a moment or two to explain briefly our approach to this problem.

It is rather difficult to operate a program of any type in a community 20, 30 or 40 miles from a central office, unless one has a well-established organization in that town through which to function. As an approach to this problem, we have been conducting a rather interesting experiment. We have gone into two typical rural towns and organized what we call Community Recreation Associations. Once again, these associations are comprised of representatives from each of the local programs.

Through this body our Commission works—suggesting ways and means of developing a local recreation program, facilities needed and so forth.

Results of our experiment: one community has done a fair job; the other has done outstanding work. In Hebron, Maryland, a town of 750 people, truly remarkable progress has been accomplished in less than eight months. The group procured the use of an old warehouse and with young and old alike rolling up their sleeves have transformed that drab storage facility into a charming community hall. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Club, teen-agers, need worry no longer for a place to meet. The Homemakers' Club is no longer concerned where to hold its training courses, card parties or other entertainments.

The auditorium in the local school, with the co-operation of the County Board of Education and Recreation Commission, was fitted properly so that it can now be used as a gymnasium for basketball games, and so forth.

Two weeks ago the association conducted its first community barn dance. Over 300 people were in attendance.

Yes, we're learning very definitely that recreation is the concern of all people, of all communities, regardless of size.

Finances

Before closing I'd like to take just a moment more to touch upon one other phase of our program in which I'm sure you're all interested—finances.

The budget of the Commission for its first year of operation is \$15,775.95. Such revenue is derived from the following sources:

Local Community Fund.....	\$10,375.95
Wicomico County Commissioners....	3,900.00
Rental of Stadium	1,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,775.95

Funds received from the County Commissioners are based on \$.01 on the annual county tax rate and for this first year, amounted to \$4,400.00. Five hundred dollars were retained by the Board in order to amortize expense already incurred by the county in providing sewerage, etc., at Memorial Field.

It is only fitting, at this time, to pay tribute to the Wicomico County Board of Commissioners for the vital role which they have played in making possible such a far reaching program.

The ground work, the foundation for a truly outstanding recreational program is being formulated for Wicomico County. Not a temporary

type of program, but a program that will earn itself a permanent, necessary and vital place among the present phases of our community life.

Through such determination, hard work, study and initiative, similar opportunities for wholesome recreation may and can be extended to every community in the state—regardless of size.

Here lies a challenge which already has been too long unanswered. A challenge to every county in the state—yes, a challenge to the State of Maryland—to give every person, regardless of race, or creed an opportunity to receive guidance and training in the art of leisure time living.

Lest we forget—great thoughts reduced to practice become great deeds. Here lies your challenge.

Children First . . .

LAST SUMMER I visited four amusement places in Scandinavia: Liseberg in Gothenburg, Folkets Park in Malmo, Grona Lund in Stockholm and Tivoli in Copenhagen. For contrast I spent an evening at Coney Island upon my return the last week in July.

The foreign recreation parks lacked the garishness of Coney Island even though there are hot-dog stands, merry-go-rounds, fun houses and side shows. Swedish price and licensing controls have much to do with the lack of the blatant, blaring commercialism of the crowded, unlovely booths along the hot Coney concrete, but I believe that the settings with trees and flowers and green lawns absorb the noises and sights which no absorption at Coney Island allows to become discordant. These recreation parks are parks in every sense of the word, with beautiful, birch-lined promenade paths, patches of tulips and other flowers, green lawns, and, wonderfully colored by electric flood-lighting effects, murmuring fountains and life-like statues. There seemed always to be concerts, free and well attended, and music in the restaurants.

Only at Grona Lund where there are fewer trees and lawn and at Copenhagen, which has not yet recovered from the effects of the war, does any discordancy peek through.

But I am unfair to the Danes and their Tivoli. I liked too well Folkets Park in Malmo with its two dance halls, one in which the youth-shunned Swedish waltzes, schottisches, polkas and hambos drew full houses and the other where youth danced the hours away to fox trot and rhumba music played in the American jive manner. I enjoyed, too, the ballet at its theater.

Because there was a crowd, I stopped in front of

a theater. The stage rose at the bottom of a gentle slope and a number of benches faced the stage inside a fence. Around this fence children had gathered and we stood up beyond them with an open space between that grew constantly less as more children slipped past us and forward. Then I saw a thing that I have seen no other place in Europe or America, an amazing thing to occur in a country so opposed to regimentation, but a most admirable piece of fair play.

Walking about among the children, pushing a short child forward, pulling a tall child back of shorter ones, two old men dressed in uniform caps and long split-tailed coats with shiny brass buttons worked with the patience of Job. At what? Arranging the children according to heights so that all might have a chance to see the show.

I remembered parades in Seattle where six-year-olds were unable to get through the crowd of thirty-year adults who lined the curb. I recalled with a shudder the afternoon I visited a park in another western city and stopped at the edge of a crowd to see performing seals, to be distracted by the sight of an elderly woman using a switch to drive her six-year-old charge through the crowd.

Here, in Copenhagen, in front of the children's theater, the children came first in a patient, kindly enforcement so that the smallest and the shortest had no taller one in front to mar his view.

Both Folkets Park in Malmo and Liseberg in Gothenburg had separate children's theaters built on this same principle of a stage facing an open space. On the day I sailed there was a performance at the latter, for children especially: a show put on for them costing only the price of the general admission to the park which teemed with other opportunities for juvenile recreation.

—Ivan B. O'Lane, Seattle, Washington

"Our Share of Joy"

By WILLIAM M. SMITH, JR.

Department of Rural Economics and Sociology
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

"We never complain of care or sorrow
For always we have our share of joy . . ."

S O SING Illinois Rural Youth, some nine thousand strong. And if you think that they do not mean what they are singing, just take a look at them with us for a few minutes. First organized some 13 years ago in Effingham County, Rural Youth groups have spread across the state so that at latest count they add up to 98 organizations in 86 counties. They claim to have more members than any other older youth group sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service in the United States. Each year Indiana and Illinois leaders carefully check the count because the Hoosiers are not far behind.

But what are these young folks doing? And what accounts for their growth and continued development—even through the war years? And who belongs to these organizations? Suppose we answer the last question first.

In membership requirements as in all other regulations Rural Youthers make their own rules. So each group or each county has its own definition of who may or may not belong. In general those young people may join who are out of high school, who are unmarried, who have lived on a farm or are interested in agriculture, and who are willing to participate actively in the group gatherings. One county puts it this way: "Once you're in, you're in 'til you're married."

Although sponsored cooperatively by the Extension Service and the Illinois Agricultural Association, the groups do not limit their membership in any way to families who are affiliated with particular adult organizations. Once in a while a group has a membership campaign, but more often it follows a more sound procedure for getting and keeping members. An organization begins with a relatively small number of interested young folks who feel the need of such a group and who are ready to work for one. Building and carrying out

their own program, they gradually invite friends and acquaintances who hear of Rural Youth and its activities. This "grapevine" method of building membership tends to place an emphasis on development of the individuals and the group rather than on long membership rolls.

Most of the groups meet regularly once a month. But having accepted that statement, the reader would need to talk with only a few Rural Youthers to discover that there are a multitude of reasons for holding various kinds of "special meetings." Generally, their program may be considered under one of three headings: study, sociability, service. Varying proportions of these make up the major activities at either regular or special meetings. If you ask a member why he or she belongs to Rural Youth you'll probably get four answers: to have fun; to get acquainted; to go places; to learn something. And all four of these add up to "our share of joy."

Programs

There is no state-wide or pre-cooked program which can be followed by the individual groups month by month. Every six months the officers meet with a Rural Youth specialist from the University of Illinois and with the farm and home adviser of their county to evaluate programs just completed, to consider needs and interests of the group, and to outline programs for the ensuing months. In a county like McHenry where there are eight Rural Youth groups this semi-annual program planning session is a sizable gathering.

From county to county the specific programs vary with the interests and experience of local membership and leadership. Although they really learn through all of their activities, Rural Youthers label only the more less formal part of their program "educational." A list of topics considered in the course of a year would fill this page.

Last January, at one of their annual state-wide gatherings, Rural Youth Day at Farm and Home Week, 450 members discussed "How to Choose and Win a Mate." From the opening talk by Dr. Katherine Whiteside Taylor, through the small group discussions, to the very end of the summary panel, interest was high. Rural Youthers selected the topic; Rural Youthers led the discussions; the same Rural Youthers returned to their own groups with new "thunder" for coming meetings.

Related to this subject also are the many meetings devoted to discussions of personality development. On this score Rural Youthers are quite practical. They know that personality does not grow out of book reading. They participate in a



Courtesy Board of Education, Detroit, Michigan

varied program which provides for all kinds of group interaction. When they do sit down to consider the question it is likely that the theme of the meeting will be stated in such terms as: modern manners, "things I wish others wouldn't do," or dating etiquette. Skits and demonstrations are popular methods of presenting such subjects.

A third list of topics might be made under the heading of vocational exploration. Edgar County with one of the most ambitious programs in the state last year held a series of six meetings dealing with the theme, *My Farm Home*. Under this heading they discussed home beautification, farmstead planning, new building materials, and other interesting subjects. The topic of conversation is often considered. Sometimes a skit is used to present ideas about conservation. Often slides, movies, or chalk talks are featured. In a number of counties guest speakers representing various occupations have appeared before the Rural Youth group. The problem of father-son partnerships in farming is often discussed.

A fourth list could be made of meetings devoted to civic responsibility. Tours through the county court house, talks by county or state officials, training in parliamentary procedure are included here. "Know Your County" has been the theme for one meeting and for a series of meetings across the state. Rural Youthers are often surprised to discover that history was made so near home. During the summer bus loads of young folks go in all directions across the Prairie State,

visiting points of historical interest, looking at Chicago, taking in a ball game or the Muny opera at St. Louis, or just visiting another county for a picnic or sports festival.

"Just for Fun"

Mentioning traveling brings us to the second major category of Rural Youth activities—sociability. Everything that Rural Youthers do seems to be fun. But some events are "just for fun." Regular meetings are invariably spiced with group singing, mixers, relays, and other games, and folk and modern dancing. Of course the calls and figures are different in Jackson County from anywhere else in the state. And McDonough has its own

special do-si-do. But almost every group likes to square dance and has records for dancing. Some of the fellows can do a good job of calling, too.

These activities are so much fun at regular meetings that innumerable in-between meetings have to be scheduled for extra good times. Roller skating or ice skating parties are popular in the winter. So are pound or box or pie socials. Prices paid for "the" box reach fabulous sums at these auctions. During the summer moonlight hikes, picnics, sports festivals and camps are held. Most groups have a banquet once a year.

One of the most significant criteria of the value of an organization is its relation to other organizations and its contribution to the community in which it exists. An additional measure applicable to a youth organization is the degree to which it helps its members make a transference from the group life of high school to participation in the adult community. Against both of these yardsticks Illinois Rural Youth measures well.

"Know Your Neighbor—Serve Your Community" has been a state-wide slogan for two years. Groups have discovered a thousand and one ways to make these words effective. The concept of neighbor is wisely broadened to include people of other lands. Reports come in every month of interesting talks made by visitors or recent immigrants from countries around the world. Returning servicemen have contributed to this expanding concept of neighbor.

Service to the local county or community takes place in many ways. Providing leadership in social

recreation is a popular one. Knox County Rural Youth have an enviable reputation in this field. Last winter they had a standing engagement with one of the Galesburg schools to teach square dancing. At the local Y.M.C.A. or at high school parties their services are in demand. Many groups assist with Farm and Home Bureau annual meetings. The Bond County group even serves the lunch as its part in the annual gathering. Rural Youth members pitch in to help with such community campaigns as a Red Cross or Community Chest drive.

They remember orphanage children with gifts and programs. One-act plays, originally prepared for a Rural Youth meeting, are taken from one organization meeting to another. In time of a crisis, such as the tornado which swept across northern Illinois a couple of summers ago, Rural Youth stands ready to help. The Bureau County group traveled by truck from farm to farm picking up debris and helping families whose homes had been destroyed.

One of the most significant contributions which Rural Youthers make to community life is their leadership in other organizations. Many are active 4-H Club and church workers. In one county the Farm Bureau is headed by a former Rural Youther who handles business with skill born of practice. In many instances former or present Rural Youth members are on the board of directors of their county Farm Bureau. The Home Bureau membership rolls include many an ex-Rural Youther. St. Clair County Rural Youthers have made good Grange officers and are active in promoting the work of that organization when given an opportunity.

Study, sociability, service—these terms describe phases of the Illinois Rural Youth program. But to account for the success of this work with young people we must look deeper than the program. To us the following appear to be among the chief reasons for the continued growth of these groups.

Of, By and For Youth

Rural Youth is of, by and for young people themselves. Adults assist if and when requested. Their part is best characterized as guidance, not direction. Officers and committees elected or appointed by the groups plan the programs, see that they are carried into action, and evaluate them. This is as true in district or state activities as it is in the county or community. Rural Youthers have little patience with "warming over" programs supplied from some office. Frequently they do request and obtain materials or suggestions for particular

aspects of their programs. But they are the ones who have the ideas and therefore who do the work. Incidentally, Rural Youth is the name which young people selected to designate their organization several years ago.

In the second place, Rural Youthers are treated as adults, not as children. Only once in a while do we hear of a group which has asked for privilege without responsibility. Most often such a situation is traceable to an adult who has not helped the group develop leadership in gradual steps or who has never trusted the young people to exercise any initiative.

Training for leadership is a continuous and never-ending process. In each group committee work and office-holding are jobs to be passed from one member to another. Membership rolls change rapidly because young folks move from place to place and they do get married. But this factor only emphasizes the need for constant leadership training.

District schools are held each spring for officers and local leaders. These are planned and conducted by Rural Youth specialists from the University of Illinois and the Illinois Agricultural Association. Members themselves suggest what should be emphasized in the meetings. Also on a district basis and providing training in group living are several camps. Camp Eastman on the Mississippi and Merom Institute in the Wabash valley have for several years been the sites of district Rural Youth week end camps. Last summer another was added at Shaw-waw-nas-see near Kankakee.

Three state-wide events are held each year. Besides affording the opportunity for renewing acquaintances, they give local leaders a chance to learn more about program methods and materials. One is the Rural Youth section of the IAA annual meeting. The second is Rural Youth Day at Farm and Home Week at the University of Illinois. The third is Rural Youth state camp at East Bay. All of these are planned by committees elected by Rural Youthers who attend the events.

Finally, throughout all of the Rural Youth work runs the philosophy that growth of the individual is more important than any program or project. In fact, Rural Youth work in Illinois differs from traditional extension work in that no "projects" are followed. From some states have appeared lengthy check-lists whereby young people are supposed to indicate their interests and from which educational programs are derived. Such a device seldom reflects true interests of young people nor affords a sound basis for program planning. Many

times adults wish that the procedure of program planning which Illinois Rural Youthers use could be speeded up. But it is democratic. And when they make the plan, theirs is the responsibility for carrying it into action. Often those meetings last until after midnight but real pride is evidenced when an officer can say afterwards, "It looks like a good program *we* planned, doesn't it?"

During the war Rural Youth organizations were kept alive in many counties by the girls who were working on farms and in offices and factories. Now the prewar membership figure has been regained. Graduates of the organization in several counties are 'organizing young married couples' groups to continue their fellowship and to consider the many problems relative to their new plans in their communities.

During depression days of the thirties, out-of-school youth were discussed as "problems" from one end of the country to the other. Several states did more than talk; they went into action. Ohio, Indiana and Iowa were among the states which made it possible for rural young people to build their own organizations. Under dozens of different names, kin-groups to Illinois Rural Youth were organized.

Whether or not a depression or recession comes again, members of these groups will be more ready to face their problems, to make their own decisions. Listen if you cross the Prairie State. You may hear them singing:

"To useful living, proud and free,
We pledge our hearts, our loyalty."

After School Program

(Conducted jointly by Peoria Public Schools and Playground and Recreation Board. 1946-1947.)

Purpose: To provide a supervised program of intra-mural sports and recreational activities to meet the interests of boys and girls of the elementary school level.

Objectives: To encourage participation of boys and girls in as many different activities as facilities will allow for a minimum of four afternoons per week and Saturday mornings.

Time: Week days from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.

Special Note: School coaches are required to follow above time schedule.

Program Possibilities for Fall Season (September 16 through November 15)

Touch Football	Captain Ball
Volley Ball	Archery
Soccer	Badminton
Speed Ball	Deck Tennis
Hand Ball	Field Hockey
Newcomb	Box Hockey
Dodge Ball	Field Day Tourney
Long Ball	Relays
End Ball	Rope Skipping
Kick Baseball	Punch Ball

1. Intramural Program September 16 Through October 18

Explanation: During this period "group instruction" should be provided for boys and girls in developing fundamental skills and the knowledge of rules for the preservation of interest and participation.

Competition should play a minor part during the instruction period with the emphasis being placed on enjoyment and fun for participants.

The "mass games" should include all age levels with equal privileges and opportunities.

2. District Round Robin Tournament from October 19 Through November 15

Explanation: A definite schedule of school competition will be worked out in each district to climax the fall season.

Individual school recreation leaders should use all boys and girls that are interested in participating in the district competition.

The time and place of scheduled games will be worked out with the schools involved in each district.

Procedure: Meetings will be held with school coaches in each district. At this meeting coaches will select a minimum of three activities for boys and three activities for girls. Each coach shall then promote these activities in their respective school programs.

Definite "group instruction" should be given three afternoons per week for boys' and at least one afternoon per week for girls' activities. Intra-school games and contests are recommended if sufficient participants are interested.

Beginning October 19th schools in each district will be privileged to enter as many teams as have been developed in a district round robin tournament to climax the fall season program.

Dads Lend a Hand

By MATT F. ANTONOVICH

Chappaqua Dads
Chappaqua, New York

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY has never caused much trouble in Chappaqua, a quiet village 35 miles north of New York City. But juvenile boredom had come to be quite a real problem by the fall of 1945, when 13 young fathers in the community decided to do something about it, and organized as the Chappaqua Dads.

The boredom among teen-agers arose from the fact that Chappaqua, which was founded in 1730, is still a "9 o'clock town," even on Saturday night. The village is not large enough to support a movie or other commercial amusements, and not many of the adolescents have access to cars with which to drive to nearby larger towns.

Many were skeptical about the success which the Chappaqua Dads would have in capturing the children's interest. Other equally sincere groups had tried to get a youth program started in the past, but had found that doing something for young folks was easy, but making them like it and support the program had somehow misfired.

The Dads were a nucleus from the town's Fire Auxiliary, which was disbanding after the war emergency. They had found they could work well together, and felt perhaps they could turn their energy further toward community good by taking a crack at the "youth problem."

Fortified by knowledge of what hadn't worked, their first move was a session with the principal of the Chappaqua public schools. He suggested that a committee from the student government organization be consulted. If this was going to be for the teen-agers, then let them "call the tune."

The success of the entire program has stemmed from that happy premise. At all functions a handful of the Dads are on hand, but stay very much in the background—available for advice or arbitration, but otherwise keeping pretty well clear of organizing or directing or supervising.

Backbone of the program are the "open house" nights held nearly every other Saturday at the high school building. Boys and girls from the seventh

through the high school grades are the guests of the Dads and are free to take part in shuffleboard, ping-pong, basketball, volley ball, dancing and other diversions. Most popular, however, are roller skating and movies. Regular rink skates were purchased by the Dads after a long wait on a list of priority purchasers. They were financed finally by the town's Recreation Commission, and 10 cents an hour is charged until the cost of the skates shall be amortized. No charge is made for the movies as the picture rental is underwritten by the Dads.

Several Dads experienced in boxing have held weekly classes in that sport, as boxing is not taught in the school physical education classes.

Active teen-agers become pretty thirsty and hungry, so refreshments consisting of soft drinks, potato chips, crackers and cookies are served free at each open house.

Participation Report

During the past year an average turnout of 175 young people has been maintained, a group of commendable size in this small village. Each year, also, the Dads have taken the high school graduating class on a day's outing at the beach.

One of the most successful affairs was a "Victory Dinner" for the 1945 high school football team, champions of its division. The American Legion was co-sponsor. Since then the high school has held a sports night for the athletes, their parents and friends and will continue this feature yearly.

During the first year when the program was on trial, the entire expense was borne by the Dads except for a small profit from the Victory dinner. In the second year, however, an expanded program made it necessary to seek support from the community. The Dads held a "low-pressure" financial drive and adequate funds were quickly raised.

The town of Mt. Kisco, adjacent to Chappaqua, has a group of Dads who will try to duplicate what the Chappaqua Dads have accomplished. Any community can do likewise, as long as there are enough adults willing to lend time and counsel to the youth of today.

"Play is one of the most important spiritual forces in the world. Bottle up the play life of boys and girls, or let it be perverted to evil ends, and we have hurt their characters beyond any power of preaching to undo the wrong."—*Harry Emerson Fosdick.*

Recreation Travels the Airwaves

THIS RADIO PROGRAM was presented on March 7, 1947 over Station KWHK by the Recreation Commission in Hutchinson, Kansas, bringing to the public the story of the city's recreation program. It is a noteworthy example of a local public relations achievement.

Mr. Nichols: Thank you, Mr. Conklin, and good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is a real pleasure for us to be able to give you a few highlights on the future Hutchinson all-city, all-age recreation program. First I would like to explain briefly how this program came into existence.

In 1945 Kansas legislators passed legislation allowing certain cities or school districts to operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds, acquire equipment and maintain land, buildings, or other recreational facilities, employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants, vote and expend funds for the operation of such a system.

In February 1946 interested groups in Hutchinson met the necessary requirements and placed a proposed tax levy of one mill before the voters of the city. It was accepted by a good majority and the money, approximately \$30,000 to be raised annually, was placed at the disposal of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission for the organization, supervision and administration of the city-wide recreation program.

Mrs. Pallister: Mr. Nichols, you speak of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission. Just what is that group and what is its function?

Mr. Nichols: Thank you, Mrs. Pallister, for your question. Briefly, the state law that makes provision for the tax levy also provides for an administrative group to select a superintendent of recreation and his assistants, administer the budget, and to act as a policy-making group for the city-wide recreation program. The recreation commission in Hutchinson was appointed by the Board of Education. We have five members and our regular meetings are held on the second Monday of every month.

Mrs. Pallister: Who are the members of your recreation commission, Mr. Nichols?

Mr. Nichols: The five members of our commission, Mrs. Pallister, are Mrs. Clyde Dillon, Mrs. Herald Legg, Mr. Otto Zahn, Mr. J. F. Boyersmith and myself. Mr. Boyersmith is the chairman and as previously stated I am the vice-chairman. By law, Mr. Paul Lewellyn, business manager of the Board of Education, is the ex-officio treasurer of our commission and the Board of Education has designated Mr. Lewellyn as our commission's secretary.

Mrs. Pallister: Thank you, Mr. Nichols. I have been interested in community recreation for a number of years and I would like to know exactly what you plan in Hutchinson in the way of an all-city, all-age program.

Mr. Nichols: That question, I will turn over to Mr. Charles Kremenak, our superintendent of recreation, whom the Hutchinson Recreation Commission has secured to direct our program.

Mr. Kremenak, what would you say to Mrs. Pallister's question?

Mr. Kremenak: In a very general way, Mrs. Pallister, we hope that our city-wide recreation program when completely developed will include 16 areas. For example we plan:

1. Arts and crafts and social recreation for all ages
2. Supervised dancing
3. Recreational dramatics and music
4. Playground supervision
5. Preschool age playground programs
6. Recreational leadership training and special activity programs
7. Leadership for special programs
8. Party and picnic kit service

A program of public recreation must serve all. Its program must include children of all ages, youth in and out of school, and adults of both sexes.

Father Wilcox: Mr. Nichols, just what is the necessity of setting up such a program? Aren't there enough school, church, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Y.M.C.A. and other programs in this community to provide what the commission is planning to provide?

Mr. Nichols: Good recreation is a long term planning project. Once started it never ends. It begins with the very small youngster and continues through his entire life. Each organization, the school, and church, and all private youth organizations have their part in this life's span. If all churches, all Scout groups, all Y.M.C.A.'s had adequate money, time, facilities and trained personnel, they could undoubtedly care for most of the leisure time hours of everyone. Unfortunately this

ideal is not a reality. Therefore a program for all of the people logically should be supported by the people themselves, in other words, by taxation. In this way additional funds are available for all-city, all-age varied activity programs.

Also, if a program is specifically for one purpose, for recreation, specialists may be employed and all efforts may be directed into this one channel. Then, a public agency, administrated by public funds for the entire public is able to assist in the coordination of all other existing institutions. We hope to work with and through all of these various agencies. If the activities or facilities of any group are not being utilized to their utmost we hope to be able to send groups and clubs to them to take part in their programs. The plan to coordinate the efforts of all, to eliminate duplication of programs and to see that each and every group and existing institution is used to as nearly maximum capacity as possible.

Father Wilcox: How will this plan reach those who are untouched by existing institutions? Can you successfully compete with pool halls, penny arcades and beer halls with regard to youth who look for their recreation in such places today?

Mr. Nichols: Yes, but not without the cooperation of parents. Present patronizers of unsupervised recreation may not be "weened away" from these places, but youngsters just coming to adolescence will not seek such commercial recreation if well-integrated programs of recreation are provided and in time become a tradition in this community. Note the growth in number of teams in basketball, baseball, and softball in Y.M.C.A.-church leagues.

Father Wilcox: Youth is so changeable in what it wants. How will you attempt to meet these changing needs or are you going to give youth what you think they need?

Mr. Nichols: The desire for many and for varied experiences is natural. Particularly in this age group. We will do our best to strike a happy medium. Frequent surveys will be conducted and youth recreation councils will be organized to meet at regular times with the recreation superintendent. If at any time a group of young people desires to form a club or a special group, Mr. Kremenak will be glad to meet with them, to help them organize and to assist them in securing leadership for their activity.

Father Wilcox: Is this program solely for youth or will some of the oldsters who are just as hungry for clean and reasonable recreation be included?

You know, a lot of us grew up during a period when work was the greatest virtue. We have an unfulfilled desire to play. Are we going to get a chance in this program?

Mr. Kremenak: I am so happy you asked that question, Father Wilcox. Many people have the idea that our program is for youth alone and that we are merely another agency bidding for the time of the youth of our city. Our program is for every citizen of Hutchinson. Activities for the preschool age, for the out-of-school youth, for the young married couples, and especially for adults. These programs will include family nights, neighborhood get-togethers, and hobby clubs and other activities. We need to know each other better than we do. Friendships are most easily made in playing together. Much of the nervous tension in the world today results from our thinking that play is "kid stuff." In our complex civilization of today play, in its many varied forms, is a necessity for the mental health of adults. Four necessities of a full life are love, worship, work and play—and play is as necessary in the proper development of the well-rounded life as any of the four.

Father Wilcox: When conversation drifts around to recreation, the question is often asked, why is it that so many schools and churches have facilities that are not fully utilized every night of the week? Can your commission do anything about this?

Mr. Nichols: In the vernacular, Father Wilcox, what you have just mentioned is "right up our alley." We have set aside approximately one-half of our budget for leadership. This leadership will be used to assist with programs in the churches, in the schools, and in public and private halls. In this way we will be able to spread the money over a much wider area. We will be able to train volunteer leaders, furnish supplies, materials and a minimum of equipment to utilize the exact facilities you mentioned.

Mrs. Pallister: I'd like to inject a question here. Leadership and training of leadership have been mentioned as well as the use of school and church facilities. Father Wilcox has asked where the churches fit into the program. I am sure all PTA groups in the city would like to know if they will be needed and what they might do to assist in the program.

Mr. Kremenak: I know, Mrs. Pallister, that you represent the thinking of all PTA groups in the city. We will need your help as well as that of all organized groups and clubs. We will need a large number of volunteers to assist our paid leadership.

We will need sponsors and co-sponsors for clubs, hobby groups and others. However, I believe that PTA groups can be of the greatest assistance in sponsoring our summer playground programs, the majority of which will be held on school playgrounds. Your recreation committees can work with us in setting up these programs, selecting both paid and volunteer workers and securing some of the equipment necessary for an all-age summer program of recreational activities on the playgrounds. In many cases some of this planning has already been done. I have met with the PTA recreation committee of the North Side School to plan their program and the PTA of Grandview to assist with the program out there. Other PTA groups in the city have made inquiry and have offered their help in organizing programs in various sections of the city.

Father Wilcox: It is the opinion of many that youth need work as much as play. Will there be any such opportunities included in the program?

Mr. Kremenak: We will encourage youth to assist us in their program. We want them to serve as leaders on the playgrounds and in other activities, to assist in building equipment and to help in the maintenance of buildings, and other facilities.

Father Wilcox: Won't your program be further competition for the churches, Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Girl Scouts and others in their demands on the time of the youngsters? Will they have time to do their studies?

Mr. Kremenak: In answer to your first question, Father Wilcox, definitely not. We hope to work this program in cooperation with the churches, Scouts, Y.M.C.A. and other organizations you mentioned. Each of them has its function; we shall try to serve those who are not at present being reached by these programs. We further hope to be able to assist the churches of the city and other groups in their programs by furnishing leadership, materials, and leadership training. I, too, have heard some parents mention that their youngsters were too busy. If we find that youth are being adequately provided for and that their schedules are not overcrowded, we will concentrate on activities for other age groups during the school

year. Then, during the summer months when school youth have more leisure time we will specialize in programs for them. We will not in any way infringe upon your already existing programs. We will assist and supplement programs for those who are not now being reached.

Mr. Nichols: Thank you, Father Wilcox and Mrs. Pallister, for being with us today and for bringing us some of the questions that we know are being asked by the people of Hutchinson. The Hutchinson Recreation Commission, Mr. Kremenak, superintendent of recreation and his assistants are anxious to help the citizens of this city develop the type of recreation activity program they desire. It is not our program. It is your program and we stand ready to help you in securing your needs and desires.

We sincerely hope that the activities and programs we sponsor and give assistance to will develop better citizenship and will make for a fuller, more wholesome and enjoyable life.

And remember: The community that plays together, stays together.

Fiorello H. LaGuardia

1882 — 1947

ALWAYS FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA was wholeheartedly for parks, playgrounds, recreation. He realized that community recreation costs money, and he was ready to see the price paid. With great satisfaction he saw what was accomplished in New York City and in New York State under the leadership of Robert Moses.

At the National Recreation Congress he spoke eloquently, giving solid backing to the work of the National Recreation Association.

Dynamic, aggressive, challenging he threw his whole weight behind building up more abundant living for the children and for all the members of the families.

His father had been a musician, and he himself liked to lead an orchestra. He knew the value of music and art in the life of people.

As chairman of the association of mayors of our cities his influence carried great weight throughout the nation. The people recognized his integrity, his dedication to their interest, that he naturally remained always one of them.—Howard Braucher.

Recreation Center Pays Dividends*

By ELMER INGALLS
"The Bangor Daily News"
Bangor, Maine

PRESQUE ISLE is a city of perhaps 10,000 residents and out of that number just two of its juveniles have been committed to state institutions during the past year. That represents a percentage so small as to be almost negligible.

It also represents an enviable condition well worth exploration—and the answer beyond a single doubt lies in the expansive system of supervised recreation made available in Aroostook's only city for all its children.

Reverting for a moment to the city and its 10,000 population, it is rather startling to learn from William V. Haskell, director of recreational activities for the Presque Isle Community Association, that 56,237 youthful inhabitants participated in some sort of recreation during 1946. Even more startling, and gratifying, is the fact that 20,967 who thronged the sites of supervised recreation were "teen-agers."

Briefly, the present setup of the recreational program is this. Headquarters for all recreational activities is the ornate building erected as a USO center during World War II and purchased by the city last September at a cost of \$25,000.

The building, located on South Main Street within easy walking distance from the business section, boasts a large auditorium, a lounge and snack bar, a stage for the presentation of amateur theatricals, two music rooms at one end of the hall, three offices at the other end, ample checkrooms for public functions and a hobby room downstairs currently in use as a darkroom for amateur photographers.

When the auditorium is in use, it is just that. The hall has been used for banquets, dances and meetings of a public nature. The last adult visitor will hardly be out of the hall before a transformation occurs.

Out from their places beside the walls come ping-pong tables, pool tables, a miniature bowling alley, juke boxes, domino, checker and chess sets—almost every kind of equipment one needs for

amusement. The lounge serves, ordinarily, as a spot where the more serious may read papers, magazines and other literature made available to the youths. A glance at the total attendance figures will give a rough idea as to whether the spot is a popular one.

An outstanding feature of the recreation program is Club 21. This organization is composed of teen-agers, has already admitted 100 to membership and is in the process of admitting many more. It has its own officers, a bank balance—and more constructive ideas than one could enumerate in a ream of paper. Latest proposal is a mimeographed newspaper and don't be too surprised if it makes its appearance shortly. These youths have a way of getting things done.

All this talk has dealt largely with the community recreational center—indoor recreation. Incidentally, it might be as well to say at this point that the adults make generous use of the facilities of the place also. During one three-month period, 34 adult organizations held meetings there. On the following month there were 21 groups of "grown-ups" who made use of the facilities.

When the weather gets a little warmer, the youngsters will be flocking outdoors—to the com-

Teen-age fun



Courtesy Bangor Daily News

*Reprinted by permission from *The Bangor Daily News*, March 17, 1947.

munity swimming pool and playground named for the Rev. Milton Grant, an ardent exponent of recreation for children.

At the swimming pool, there are life guards in attendance constantly, playground directors in charge of the swings, slides and extensive equipment available to the children. It is at this spot that the Abnaki has been staging its annual Children's Day observances, which draw thousands of youngsters.

Located also at the playground is a softball diamond, used during the day by the youngsters, after supper by a multitude of adult softball teams playing a rigorous schedule.

During the winter months, Presque Isle's youths may participate in the activities at the Recreation Center. They may avail themselves of facilities at Aroostook State Park, Echo Lake, or, if the brisk outdoor air appeals, the Veterans of Foreign Wars run a supervised skating rink on Presque Isle stream. The Community Association helps in the support of this project, the city itself contributes and, most of all, the veterans themselves pour plenty of time and money and effort into keeping it going.

Most of this story has dealt with the youth and their program. What of the adults? The recreational program takes in the projects sponsored by the Presque Isle Community Association—and they are almost too numerous to mention. Briefly, a Little Theater group starts a series of offerings this month; there is a photography club. A city

bowling league has just completed its schedule. There is adult competition in softball.

In short, the city of Presque Isle offers its youths and adults almost any kind of recreation desired—so long as it's clean and wholesome.

Fine City Spirit

Who is responsible for all these advantages? Every taxpayer who turns in a nickel tax and every citizen who gives even so much as a dime to the Community Chest. The city purchased the building, helps towards its support. The Presque Isle Community Association sponsors the over-all program, stands ready always to render assistance to any worthwhile project, whether it be for adults or youths. The Community Chest raises the funds which make its operation possible. The VFW has been cooperative in manning its rink; but, most important of all is the attitude throughout the city that nothing is too good for the youngsters. That is the spirit from which comes substantial citizens.

Head of the program is William V. Haskell, himself a Presque Isle boy, a University of Maine man, a former teacher, athlete and veteran of the most recent world conflict. The recreational program is recognized by and is a part of a national organization.

That's the whole story—the happy tale of a city with foresight enough to recognize the fact that today's kiddies are tomorrow's substantial citizens. The whole country would lose nothing by following the Presque Isle example.

A Home for the Admiral....

THE FOLLOWING LETTER was written by a National Recreation Association district field representative to Dr. Hayes A. Richardson, Director of Welfare, Kansas City, Missouri. The outcome of the correspondence? Acceptance by the camp, great rejoicing by the field representative's neighbors and happiness for the camp children and Admiral Jackson.

.....

"I come bearing gifts.

"We have a burro (Rocky Mountain donkey or jackass) named Admiral Jackson (photograph enclosed) which I bought for my children a year ago when we moved here. It is necessary that we dispose of him because we are going away for awhile and because we do not have a proper place to keep him now. It occurred to me that rather than sell him to someone, it would be a good idea to offer him to the recreation department for the children who go to your camp. I am sure that he would be

a very popular addition to your camp staff.

"The Admiral is about nine years old. He is gentle, likes children, has never shown any vicious traits, and is no more stubborn than a lot of people I know. He is easy to care for—eats everything, including paper sacks, tobacco—in fact, anything he is given. He has a strong tenor voice and could be used to replace or supplement the bugler who blows reveille. He would become the camp mascot, I am sure. I have never seen more than four children ride him at a time, but that may not be the limit.

"He is used to staying out all winter and would not require any special care. Perhaps the zoo people could look after him during the winter if necessary.

"A picture of you or the Mayor riding him up to the flagpole would give the camp program some publicity.

"If you are interested in my proposition, I will be glad to release Jackson any time between July 12 and July 21 as a permanent gift."

Recreation Comes to Somerville

SOMERVILLE, N. J., is a borough of approximately 12,000 population, very much recreation-minded. This was not the sentiment of the people 25 years ago when the borough consisted of less than 8,000 persons who gave no effort and very little thought to either park lands or recreation.

In the late twenties, Somerville was fortunate to have a Mayor who visualized a strip of about 100 acres of wasteland, with a brook running through its entire length, within the borough limits, as grounds for future park lands. He promoted a movement to acquire this land by personal donation or purchase and thus paved the way for the park development of which the borough is now proud.

There had been various attempts to start a public playground on this land by different organizations, but no one became very serious until 1931 when a group of women from the Home and School League appeared before the Borough Council and asked that a plot of ground be cleared so that their organization might operate a playground that summer. The Council set aside \$2,500 to meet this request and the first play area was developed. A group of young people known as the Somerville Recreation Association was organized and joined their efforts with the Home and School League, continuing to raise funds by benefits and private subscriptions to help keep this play area in operation.

They did a good job. The program grew rapidly so that within three years they found themselves with insufficient funds and more land needing leveling and planting to meet the demands of the citizenry.

In 1935 the Association appeared before the Borough Council with a request that the town make a financial contribution to its efforts and learned to its dismay that the municipality was not permitted by law to make contributions to a private organization. This prompted the Borough Council to interest itself in setting up its own Commission to carry on such

By C. PALMER BATEMAN

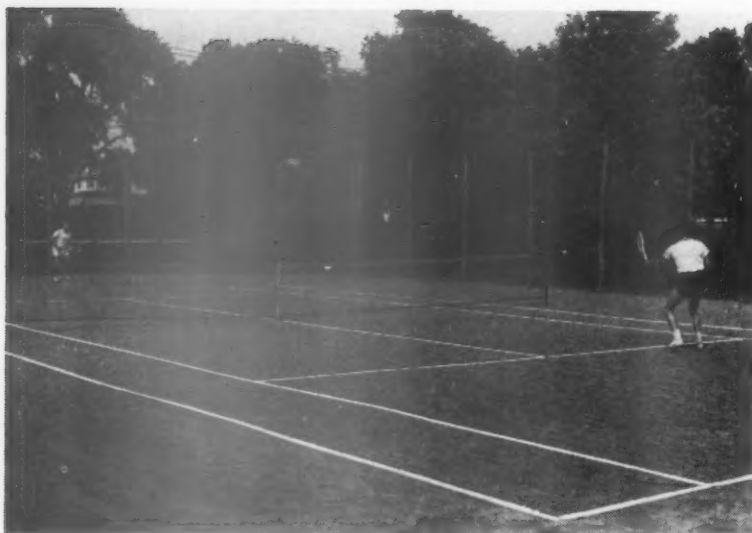
Chairman, Park and Recreation Commission
Somerville, New Jersey

work, and in March 1936 the Council and Mayor created a Park and Recreation Commission consisting of five members. A very modest budget of \$800 was appropriated. It was the duty of the Commission to take over the 100 acres of borough land, create and supervise play areas, and also plant and develop the unsightly wasteland.

The new Commission went to work immediately, surveying the proposition as a whole. A small amount of necessary play equipment was purchased and a director hired for July and August. Soon it was found that still more play areas, equipment and leaders would be needed. The Commission used the resources offered by the WPA and wrote a project to cover part of the borough park lands for grading, planting, an athletic field and tennis courts. The actual outlay from the local budget was under \$1,500.

Wasteland area





..... becomes a tennis court

When the work was completed, the unsightly spots had been eliminated and three play areas were in action. The Council, during this period, increased the budget of the Commission to \$7,000 for grass cutting and operating play areas. Today there are four playgrounds along the winding brook, four tennis courts, four baseball diamonds, two large pools and a small one, four shuffleboard courts, horseshoe courts, swings, see-saws, slides and other small equipment necessary on a well-organized playground. Over 1,000 children are registered and a large number of adults are now using these facilities in the evenings. There are five full-time summer playground leaders and a year-round director to coordinate the entire program. The operating budget has increased until it now tops \$16,000—the money is raised by taxation the same as for other community services.

Up until 1941 little was done for recreation except to operate the playgrounds during the summer months. The Commission recognized the need for indoor programs for the teen-agers and adults of the community during the winter months. No community building was available, nor were there funds with which to provide one. So the Commission again started from scratch on this problem. The school buildings of the community had never been used for outside recreation as it had been the policy of the School Board to close all school properties except for school purposes or for hire. A series of conferences, however, resulted in the Board permitting the Commission to use one of the gymnasiums one night a week under its personal

supervision. The results were such that the Board gradually increased the use of the buildings to the Commission until two gymnasiums and classrooms are being used four nights a week.

The question of direction by the end of 1946 became too time-absorbing for the Commission to handle and the time seemed right to employ a year-round director. The Commission, aware of the increase in municipal budget by taking this step, spent considerable time in promoting the idea to civic leaders and councilmen. The result was complete approval by the Borough Council, and the 1947 budget included a full-time director and part-time secretary. Somerville now has a full-time recreation program.

The recreation program has grown into an important cog in the community life. The citizenry is enjoying community sings, block dances, special holiday programs, bus trips to ball games, community band, town baseball team and many other items of interest to the spectator as well as the participant.

Each time the Commission makes a forward move, new fields automatically open and there seems to be no end to what can be accomplished. As far ahead as it may see now, there is considerable thought being given to the erection of community recreation buildings and athletic fields. These may come a lot sooner than anticipated!

"TRADITIONALLY America has been a land of good will.

"Its barn raisings, quilting parties, husking bees, turned individual tasks into group recreation. The way of good will, trust, cooperative work with individual freedom has built our nation.

"We are at heart do-gooders. The principles by which we live are rooted in the cumulative experiences of men through the centuries.

"The American mind has been open to select from everywhere those principles of human behavior which have demonstrable social utility."

—*Algo D. Henderson in Antioch Notes*,
December, 1946.

Box Top Broadcasters . . .

Gainesville's Junior Radio Guild

By CLIFF KERBY, Director
Recreation Department
Gainesville, Florida

A GROUP OF YOUNGSTERS eight to eighteen meet twice a week for rehearsal, radio training, and broadcasting in the Gainesville Recreation Department's Junior Radio Guild.

This eight-year-old project, which is an important part of the Recreation Department's dramatic program, got under way in January 1938 with an initial broadcast of "Safety Musketeers" and has been going strong every year since then with the exception of one year's absence during wartime. Of the three boys in the first broadcast, two have graduated from the Guild into professional dramatic careers.

Growing by leaps and bounds from the time of the first broadcast, the Guild branched out into such programs as the Red Lantern series, "The Toy Maker of Rotterdam," "The Never-Never Land," "The Nutcracker of Toyland," "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," and a Dutch dialect modern version of "Rip Van Winkle" in addition to numerous folk stories. This year the group has produced two thirteen-week series of radio plays based on "Little Women" and "Alice in Wonderland" over the local radio station in regular Sunday afternoon broadcasts.

Some of the Guild members are so small they have to stand on boxes to reach the microphone but the caliber of their work is mature. The program's popularity with young and old alike is evidenced by the large group of adults and children attending the regular Sunday broadcasts, as well as those who tune in at home. Teachers also have a word of praise for the Guild's work, saying that the speech training and imagination development accomplished in the program greatly improve the members' school work.

The first essential mastered by the children in preparation for radio work is reading. Many who

already know their ABC's have to be re-taught to read for radio. Enunciation is emphasized but naturalness of speech is of primary importance. Radio technique is taught early so that by the time the children appear before live mikes, they are completely at ease. Grownups attending the shows are often amazed at the professional way the youngsters fade in and out before the mikes. The children also master sound and announcing techniques in addition to character interpretation for the various programs.

Most programs are chosen so that the younger children and the teen-agers appear in the same productions, but throughout the year at least one show is given using members of each group in the cast. Some of the members who began their Guild work standing on boxes during the first year it was organized are now playing leading roles in the Guild productions. The girl who plays the title role in the current production, "Alice in Wonder-

On the air



land," is one of these original "box top" members as is her brother who now announces the program.

Fifty active youngsters compose this year's Junior Radio Guild and every week brings a new group of applicants who "want to try out for the radio program." Next year the Guild hopes to ex-

pand its activities to include two radio programs a week and looks forward to even greater participation.

When the music fades and the announcer says, "The Junior Radio Guild of Gainesville is on the air," you can bet that everybody is listening.

USO Reconverts

THE MIDDLETOWN Community Service Organization is an outgrowth of the USO which was established for the Middletown Air Technical Command and local servicemen. USO activities were reduced to a minimum following the Japanese surrender in 1945, but a group of USO committeemen desired to see an organization similar to the USO functioning for the benefit of returning servicemen and the youth of Middletown, Pa. Towards this end an appropriation from USO funds and the use of the building were obtained; an activity director was secured and a program begun.

Emphasis was placed on arranging a program to provide good recreation for the young people from 12 to 20. Open six evenings each week for recreation activities, the community building soon became the center of local activities. However, with the interest shown by the boys and girls attending, it was soon realized that the community needed more room and facilities to meet the many demands.

Here the Middletown Borough Council stepped in and allocated during the latter part of 1945 a sum of \$2,700 for the continuance of a community program with a non-political committee to oversee the activities, policy and general use of finances. The committee was soon in action and by-laws were drawn up and approved. The Borough Council purchased all equipment from the USO and presented it to the Middletown Community Service Organization, the official name of the group.

Activities. MCSO activities include a variety of social, athletic, and educational features. Some of these include: basketball, tumbling, volleyball, boxing, wrestling, indoor baseball and table tennis during the winter; softball, volleyball, baseball and other outdoor sports during the summer. These are under the supervision of two paid workers.

Each Saturday morning a free movie is held for the young children of Middletown and surrounding communities. Spelling contests, quizzes and dances are held from time to time.

Boys from 12 to 16 play basketball one night each week. There are usually about eight teams, affording playing opportunities for many boys who do not get a chance to play in the public schools. There is also a Sunday School basketball league made up mostly of ex-servicemen who play twice a week under supervision.

To publicize its activities, MCSO mails out programs listing activities for the coming week, and the local newspapers also carry the weekly schedule in Monday issues.

Playground Activities. The MCSO was responsible for the beginning of an organized outdoor summer program in terms of park and playground activity. Sites were selected and leaders hired. The playground records for 1946 indicate an outdoor attendance of both participants and spectators exceeding 23,000. The number of different activities offered totalled more than 20 and were available five days a week for a period of ten weeks.

Coordination. All MCSO activities are scheduled in coordination with school, athletic, social and educational functions in order to insure attendance and support in all these activities. Saturday night games and dances are alternated and are dependent on school schedules. The community building is also used daily by school pupils for basketball practice which is carried on under the supervision of school representatives.

Both volunteer and paid workers help maintain MCSO activities. There is a paid director on duty directing activities each weekday evening and others assist him with some of the programs. Members of the school staff are active in the program. Volunteers, besides helping with activities, also are in charge of the snack bar.

There is still much to be done in the way of recreation for the community, but Middletown is off to a flying start.

Folk Dancing In the High School

By FRED W. FRANZ

Physical Education Instructor
Hempstead, N. Y., High School

"H¹, BETTY! Coming folk dancing this afternoon?"

"Sure thing, Jim."

"Save me one, will you?"

"You bet. See you later."

This is the kind of conversation heard in the halls of Hempstead High School on Mondays and Wednesdays, the days the dancing clubs meet. About 100 boys and girls choose dancing as their outside activity, as they would bowling, riding, swimming, or baseball.

Folk dancing and square dancing are not new to the boys and girls of Hempstead High School. In 1942 I introduced this activity to a small group of 15 boys and 15 girls of the junior-senior class. We made a slow, but very sure beginning. Our first group was carefully picked, the program thoroughly discussed and planned. We danced on Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 because this was the one afternoon a week when I was not busy with the boys' intramural program.

The first several weeks were given over to square dancing, only because we wanted to be sure that all the members were having fun. After a few weeks of square dancing, we learned a very simple folk dance, then another and another. A surprising thing happened. A request was made—and by the boys—for more folk dancing. Our beginning, we felt, was a success. Gradually, folk dances replaced the squares.

Reasons

Why have folk dancing or square dancing in a high school? Our main reason is that we had an instructor who knew folk dancing and square dancing and felt that this type of dancing is one of the most social activities there is to offer to a co-educational group. If Jim or Betty can come to a square dance; have a good time doing a do-si-do or swinging a pretty partner; can meet new and different partners in an easy, natural way; and can



"Circle Right"

be happy among all kinds of people, we think the square dance is worth while.

In beginning groups, especially in square dancing, very little skill and rhythm are needed. "If you can walk, you can square dance," is the familiar saying of many callers. To be an outstanding square dancer, of course, demands greater skill, greater rhythm. When we get into our first folk dance the same results are there. The skills are not so easy, the rhythm is not so simple. Different music, different steps, different techniques . . . all challenge the individual. Soon, the awkwardness wears away, the steps become more familiar, the dancers become more confident and some new inner spirit makes itself felt. Again and again we have proved dancing's social values in our groups.

Folk dancing brings together people of different backgrounds and nationalities. For the most part, a folk dancing group is a friendly and a happy group. Certainly, here is a practical laboratory for building better citizenship and happier individuals.

The war years interfered with our long range plans. By 1943 we had hoped to have a folk and square dance membership of at least 150 boys and 150 girls. This hope was delayed but during the war a small group of students kept meeting to dance despite the instructor's absence. They had collected a few folk and square dance records. For three years they kept teaching enough classmates to keep the small group going. In January 1946 the faculty leader returned from naval service to

pick up again his physical education duties at Hempstead and long range plans to build up the folk dancing are again in the making.

Success

The folk and square dancing program is now coming into its rightful place as a part of our regular physical education program. It is succeeding in our high school for various reasons. First of all, we have a principal who is greatly interested in seeing that his students get the most out of their school programs, be it scholastic attainment or after-school activity. He feels that there is value in our dance program because it helps many students, especially freshmen, adjust socially to high school life. That social adjustment makes itself felt in the school citizens—the students themselves. Through his helpful interest we now have two days assigned to dancing. He has recognized that this activity should be a part of our regular program, and it is treated as such. Without this administrative cooperation we still would be trying to direct the program on the instructor's off-night. Our girls' physical education instructors help us line up the girls. It is a pleasure to work in a school where the men's and women's departments cooperate. It is "our" program with both departments contributing to the success of our folk dancing groups. Once each year we have had Ed Durlacher, well-known square dance caller, come to the high school and teach square dancing for one week. Under his direction the girls' and boys' gym classes meet together in our larger gym for square dance instruction.

What are the facts about our groups? We have two separate dancing clubs—a freshman-sophomore club, and a junior-senior club. Since we use a small elementary school gym, we must limit our membership. We tried to have 25 boys and 25 girls from each class. Practically, our meeting place will hold no more than 20 boys and 20 girls for a dancing total of 40 students. Sometimes we squeeze in a total of 50. The freshman-sophomore group meets every Monday afternoon from 3:15 to 5:00. The junior-senior group meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 5:00. The former group gets more square dancing, while the latter group gets more folk dancing.

Twice a month we have open house dances. These come on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M. These Saturdays are open to all high school youngsters of our own and other high schools. Simple dances are taught for newcomers and more difficult dances are demonstrated by club members. The program

is about evenly divided between square dancing and folk dancing. We also believe in sharing this activity with parents, so once every two months we have a family night dance. Rest assured, we all have a good time and an active evening.

Skills

One of our many reasons for existing is to help students learn dancing skills. One group has both types of dancers—good ones and poor ones—with first year students probably the most awkward. In the beginning about 85 percent of our group are poor dancers. We cannot show our critics a lot of students highly efficient in the folk dance technique, but we can show them students who are growing every day through new experiences. They are growing physically, mentally, and spiritually, because in the folk dance, with all its social values for fellowship and good will, we do develop spiritually. A folk dancer soon gets the feeling that "it's good to be alive!"

We shall learn many dances during our years with this group. If a freshman joins our group and will stay with folk dancing through his senior year, he should know some 30 to 40 folk dances as well as all the basic calls of square dancing. A list of folk dances we do now includes Rochester Schottische, Regular Schottische, Heel-Toe Polka, Norwegian Polka, Road to the Isles, Cherkessia, Kavelis, Ace of Diamonds, Rye Waltz, Black Hawk Waltz, Sicillian Tarantella, Let Us Be Joyful, and the Hambo (only for the best dancers). Dances that upper-classmen will learn in the future include Karapyet, Meitschi Putz di, Laendler, Napoleon, Masquerade, Pfingsfreitag, Swiss Weggis, Swedish Klap Dance, Varsouvienne, Russian Waltz, Tancuj, Alexandrovski, and Little Man in a Fix. The speed at which we teach these new dances depends, of course, on the type of students we have in our clubs. We go as slowly as we have to, giving individual attention to those who need it, letting our own better dancers help those beginners who learn more slowly.

Sharing the Fun

"Man does not live unto himself alone" nor does our group exist primarily for its own ends. We know what fun we have, and we want to share this activity with others. Ever since our first class, our influence has spread. In 1942, shortly after we organized our first small group, there was a desire on the part of our group to share its activity. But again, our small space limited our plans. So the group asked the P.T.A. for help in getting the large high school gym open on Friday evenings.



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At those dances we played records for modern dancing, and also worked in our folk dancing in a small way and square dancing in a big way.

Even today, after five years, we have more boys on the floor for square dancing than we do for ballroom dancing. In our squares and folk dances, we have made it almost a rule that girls will not dance together. Only when we "run out" of boys, do we encourage girls to dance together. This is not true of modern dancing. Finally, our folk dance interest has spread to our parents and our groups have been enjoying family nights periodically. Much more should be done by leaders to interest the community in activities where parents and children can share each others' company.

There is a place for adults in our folk and square dance plans. We have large beginners' classes where men and women can learn basic steps and dances. Two classes meet every Thursday evening, as part of the adult education program. A beginners' class meets from 7:15 to 9:00 P.M. and a group with more folk dance experience meets from

9:00 to 11:00 P.M. Adults come from many surrounding villages to join in these folk dances.

On Long Island, we are trying to make Hempstead a folk dance center. As a folk dance leader I am always anxious to meet people of other nationalities and learn their dances. Many nationalities are represented in our own and neighboring communities. There is no reason at all why we should not have a common meeting ground in the folk dance where the finest and best in all nationality cultures can be brought together to make better Americans. During the past nine years of folk dance teaching as well as square dance activity, I have seen a lot of adults who have found a new and vital social activity in the folk dance. During the next few years hundreds of others will find the same social values through folk dancing and square dancing. At Hempstead High School we are glad because our young people are finding fun and friends through our folk dance clubs. We look to the future, and see many pleasant, active hours of fun and enjoyment for a great number of people through our folk dance program.

Community Square Dance...

JUST WHAT EFFECT a big community square dance can have even on a sophisticated vacationist's sector of the country has been exemplified in San Diego with the presentation of a two-week long square dance festival conducted by James Clossin of El Paso, Texas, and sponsored by the City Recreation Department.

In the first place, the festival exceeded the wildest expectations of its sponsors, packing in such a crowd the first night that what was originally planned for a week-long festival had to be divided into two groups and extended to two weeks.

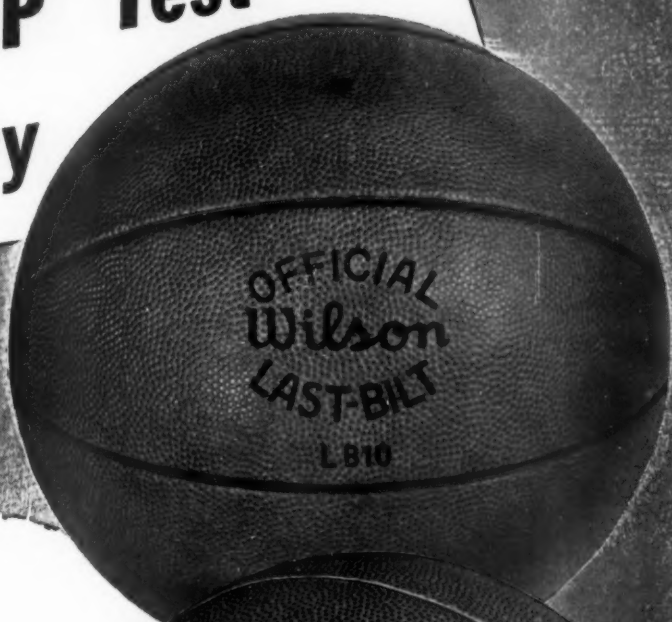
The true test of the success of the square dance festival in San Diego, however, was the number of square dance clubs (actually formed both for instruction and for dancing) that the Recreation Department was able to organize successfully following the festival. Every section of the city was represented immediately by a group whose interest in square dancing had been directly or indirectly an outgrowth of the community dance. These clubs are meeting now and have shown a steady gain in attendance since being formed. All that was needed was a means of getting this latent interest in group dancing aroused, and the festival was the answer.

The square dance festival, or "seminar" as it was referred to in the newspapers, lasted for six consecutive nights, with evening sessions being held from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. The last night, a Saturday, was turned over completely to dancing.

Clossin, a famous advocate of square dancing who knows no less than a thousand calls for dances, gave instruction slowly, progressing from a few simple figures on the first night or two to the far more complicated squares on the last nights. Learning the dances was achieved in such a relaxed and pleasant manner that nobody suffered embarrassment and the instruction process had all the sociability of square dancing itself. All that was required, in terms of physical properties for the event, was a large hall, a loud speaker system, a blackboard and the artistry of Clossin.

San Diegans are looking forward eagerly to another dance seminar at the same time next year. Particularly significant to the recreational program is the fact that so many young people took part in San Diego's square dance festival. This fact alone promises the growth in popularity—or rather, since Californians are apt to forget its former universality, the renewal in popularity—of square dancing.—*Ralph Trembley*, Recreation Department, San Diego, California.

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Teen-Age Clubs

ANN MAXWELL SANDERS of the Viking Harbor Teen-Age Club in Jefferson County, Kentucky, is a teen-ager who has recently written a fourteen-page paper discussing teen-age clubs. Presented here are a number of excerpts taken from various chapters of her paper.

Preface

More and more people are spending their time in some form of recreation. I believe it to be a coming field and for this reason have chosen recreation work for my future vocation. One of the most important and growing branches of recreation is teen-age clubs.

I, myself, am a teen-ager. I know what it is to have a recreation club in which to "hang out." It is my sincere belief that many benefits can be gained through these organizations. Therefore, I present this paper with hopes that those who read it may gain a better view of teen-age clubs from a typical "teen-ager."

* * * *

My points of view will differ from others I know. I am hoping, however, one will realize that I am still just a "teen-ager."

The Problem

In fairness to the hour in which we live I think it should be stated that the problem is ageless. Ageless, in the sense that it has ever been with the world. Ageless, again, in the sense that it is forever young, young with such energy and potency that each generation is persuaded the problem originated with them.

It may be that the problem could be stated in one word—people! The ramifications, however, are so multiple and complex that, although untold million of words have been written and spoken, the solution still evades our world.

* * * *

We, of our hour, are thinking in terms of fulfilling the need by

filling full the lives of young people. It is still true that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop," so we propose that the increasing number of leisure hours of youth shall be filled with opportunities that are wholesome and of popular appeal. We would avail ourselves of an implement that is not new, but which we believe has possibilities of being presented in a new light.

* * * *

It is . . . "re-creation" (making anew) that we are seeking to accomplish. This is in line with a verse of Scripture, "Wherefore, be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds." Re-creation is to lay hold of the possibilities within ourselves and accomplish those purposes for which they were given us. My field of thinking and planning is, I think, of necessity limited to youth. A paper this brief



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could not be comprehensive enough to cover all phases possible to re-creation of youth so it will be virtually limited to teen-age clubs. We are to look at and investigate these agencies in the light of providing a solution for the age-old problem of the misbehavior of people.

Stumbling Blocks

I indicated earlier that I knew full well the theory of recreation as a cure for the moral misbehavior of mankind was not original with our generation. It has been tried before and I think the fact of the results of previous efforts being as futile as they have been, can be attributed mainly to two factors.

The first of these factors I would suggest holds within itself, immature thinking and inadequate planning. Our world has simply "played" with the thought of "playing." . . . Until it is recognized as being a real challenge to our ability, deserving and requiring much of our time and talent, no appreciable progress can be made.

* * * *

Coupled with this deficiency is the inadequacy of facilities provided for the work. Seldom, if ever, have the accommodations been other than a "spare" room, an unused loft, a basement that could be used from time to time, or other makeshift provisions. It is ridiculous to assume that such could long compete with the neon-lighted, spacious-floored, and brilliantly decorated commercial enterprises that lure youngsters oft-times into places we do not want them to go.

* * * *

The second stumbling block is not to be understood as a blanket indictment of any group of people, but, rather as factual appraisal of a situation that does exist. It is extremely difficult to make considerable progress against juvenile delinquency while we are faced with as much parental delinquency as we are. . . . So long as parents fail to share in filling full the lives of our children with wholesome provisions; so long as parents privilege themselves the right to frequent questionable places of entertainment; so long as parents are loose in their talk and lewd in their living, so long shall delinquent parents sow a seed that will put their children's teeth on edge.

Teen-Age Clubs

A youth center in this study applies to a recreation center used at specific times, sometimes exclusively—by young people with a program which

they helped to plan and operate themselves. These quarters may or may not be in a separate location and are often found in quarters used for other purposes.

The alarming growth of delinquency, the general restlessness of young people, the effect of war strain and tension, with disruption of normal family life; all this prodded the youth center movement.

* * * *

Every recreation program begins with the recognition of a basic human need; that is the need for fun and relaxation, with a satisfactory social life. At no time is this more needed than during the "in-between" years of adolescence. War did not create this need, but it has intensified it, pointed it out, and brought it to the attention of hundreds of American communities.

* * * *

Many good programs have originated with public and private community agencies, with clubs, schools, churches, local officials, newspapers and even with radio stations. Experience shows, however, that even when adults take the lead youth wants a voice in the program from the beginning. The most successful projects have had the cooperation of teen-agers in both planning and operation.

Membership generally covers the fourteen to eighteen age group with about three-fourths of the centers also including the thirteen-year-old and three-fourths the nineteen-year-old.

In some centers young children are admitted for special periods. Most centers act on the theory that mixing the older and younger groups will not work, as the older ones drop out.

The encouraging thing about youth center membership, however, is frequently not its size, but its make-up, which in most cases represents a true cross-section of community or neighborhood.

* * * *

Careful thought should be given to the danger of excluding through high dues or admission charges, youths who need the center. . . . Usually an initial fee is charged and then dues of about a nickel weekly are requested in most clubs.

Membership cards are issued and a list of members is always kept on file.

* * * *

Organization

Most youth centers should have an adult in attendance whenever they are open. There is evidence to show that a center's success or failure rests largely upon the character of leadership. The

ability to achieve the delicate balance between too much and too little supervision is a number one requisite in the director.

The director should have qualities like tact, tolerance, skill at crafts and games, sense of humor and ability to fit in with the "gang."

* * * *

The set-up in many centers is calculated to keep the grown-ups in the background. The most common form of government consists of a youth council, committee or board, under the supervision of a full-time director, with an advisory committee, sponsoring organization, or some similar group lending moral and financial support in addition to advice when requested. Where adult control is slightly less restricted to the sidelines, it may be exercised: (1) through a senior board of directors, sponsoring committee or other adult committees, to which plans are submitted for approval; (2) through a group of adult advisors who meet regularly with the youth committee; (3) through school supervision or, (4) through adult control of all finances.

* * * *

A supervisor is necessary in a club to see that things run smoothly, but officers in a club are also essential. Without them the teen-agers, I believe, would feel that they aren't really running their club and it would promote the chance for too much adult domination.

* * * *

The actual operation of the youth center and the program of activities built around it provide a fine opportunity for youth participation, both in planning and in service. A committee of youth should have responsibility for the center. Most of the planning and work in the club is through committees, which are usually organized by the president and vice-president and sponsor. Every club will discover what committees are needed, in order to get the best results. One committee, which I think is essential to every club, is the Policy Committee. This may be known by other names, but its duty is to set up the policy of the club and to deal with persons who abuse the policy.

* * * *

Scope of Program

... The meat of the program is, of course, in its activities, in its opportunities for doing. Some of the signposts toward successful youth programs are: (1) they try to cater to the interests of minorities as well as those of the majority, and (2) they gear activities to seasons and vacations and plan programs ahead.

In a well-run center the program has evolved

out of the joint planning of the members and the director or of the adult advisors of the center. Activities grow out of the interests of the young people.

* * * *

It is clear from the findings already available from cities where youth interest surveys have been made that youth itself is interested in a broad range of activities. It wants to dance, lounge around, play ping-pong and table games, but, it also wants to swim, hike, skate, play softball, tennis, badminton and other games. It wants to sing and play musical instruments, to join dramatic groups, to make things with its hands, to enjoy the fellowship of clubs and service groups. And the need for the participation of boys and girls together in these activities should not be forgotten.

If opportunities for these activities are to be provided, youth center's leadership must be enthusiastic, imaginative, resourceful and energetic. The youth center, however limited in its own facilities, must be the central point from which the total program can radiate and through which the activities can be integrated with other public and private agencies throughout the community. One present general weakness is the failure of youth center's leadership to take advantage of the existing facilities. The use of these facilities and services provides a fine opportunity to acquaint youth with what is regularly available for them.

Possible Benefits

... Oft-times this is the first opportunity many boys and girls have ever had to shoulder responsibility. The best supervision will create a consciousness on the part of the membership that it is their project. It is a proud moment when teen-agers sit around a conference table and formulate plans for their club. Mistakes they will make and errors of judgment will be revealed, but real leadership is being developed as they extricate themselves from unhealthy situations.

They teach themselves that moral principles are an essential part of their group code of conduct. So it will follow that by-laws and regulations contain such as promote clean speech, clear thinking and wholesome conduct.

* * * *

Here, too, will be found a thoroughly mixed group. Religious creeds or skin color, affluence or obscurity of parents, make no difference over a ping-pong table.

* * * *

The Accomplishment

"Awake, thou that sleepest, arise, lest we perish." In conclusion, I feel that the clarion cry of

the Israelite is pretty much the need of our hour. I think we have found that the problem is not very trivial and the possible accomplishments enormous. It does not require very definite contributions in such matters as planning, supervising, financing, and expanding. I would say that all of these materials we have at hand. We would think it silly if a group of competent craftsmen sat themselves down beside an accumulation of all essential materials and bewailed the lack of a house. We could only say to them that they didn't deserve a house. Isn't it a parallel case when a group of people evaluates the need for teen-age clubs, a glance about them reveals that we are amidst all necessary material and yet we continue foolishly to do nothing about it?

My contention is that our sole need is to be awakened, first to the act of the need, secondly, to the possibility of accomplishment and, lastly, to the realization of the good that can be achieved. It is a problem of such proportion and a program of such merit that I feel it deserves the support of religious, educational, fraternal, civic and all other groups in the effort to create unitedly what could never be accomplished individually.

You will pardon me if my enthusiasm leads me to write as if teen-age clubs were a "cure-all" for

every modern social ailment. It cannot be all of that, of itself. However, it provides a healthy, wholesome outlet for youthful enthusiasm and privileges them the opportunity of sharing the responsibilities of adult judgments. This, unquestionably, will develop a quality of citizenry calculated to make effective contributions to civic welfare. Multiply the re-created characters of the individual clubs by the thousands of centers and you can see the potentialities are amazing.

This is then, but the last word; it is yours to choose whether youth be hindered or helped by your efforts. No one can be unaffected though they may be disinterested to the point of indifference. The point is illustrated by the thinking of yesteryear—whether or not a youngster would dance in the company of his teen-age friends. We found out that they would, almost without regard to parental prohibition. Today we recognize in our thinking the choice is not whether they will dance, it is only whether their dancing will be ballroom or barroom. So with the challenge that comes to aid in the recreation of youth—you may share by serving, or you may shirk by shunning—in either event you are definitely wielding an influence.

So—"Awake, thou that sleepest, arise, lest we perish!"



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C. E. Reed

SMILING OVER the expanse of his uncluttered desk and stroking his sparse hair, C. E. Reed, manager of the National Recreation Association field staff, directs the activities of approximately 30 workers on the Association's staff, scattered over the entire area of the United States. Under his supervision are 15 district representatives, four social recreation specialists, one arts and crafts specialist, three staff members whose duties concern programs and facilities for colored people, three specialists working on surveys and long range plans, one specialist in small town recreation and one industrial representative.

Charlie Reed relates that in 1930 when he took over direction of the field staff there were about eight district representatives and several specialists as compared with the staff today which gives service to the entire country.

During his long years with the Association, Mr. Reed has served in various capacities in the Association's field work, research and finance work and in other phases of the Association's activities. He is a graduate of the University of Indiana and the School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago. For three years he served as Field Representative of the Community Agencies Endorsement Committee, Chicago Association of Commerce. He is now rounding out his 31st year with the National Recreation Association, his 17th year as manager of the field department.

During his years with the Association he has

made several studies which include: a study of the administration of community recreation programs by physical education instructors, a study made under the direction of Lebert Weir concerning industrial recreation, a study on fees and charges, and another concerning the possibilities of the Junior Achievement Movement, particularly in regard to the arts and crafts activities of this group.

During the first World War he served for a while as a field organizer for War Camp Community Service in the North Shore Chicago area, then as W.C.C.S. organizer-director at Waukegan, Illinois (Great Lakes Naval Training Station). Following this he enlisted in the U. S. Navy.

At the close of the war he was division secretary for the National Recreation Association field service in the Southeast and also conducted a series of referendum campaigns which resulted in the beginning of the recreation departments in such cities as Alton, Illinois, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and others. He also handled other field assignments and district work before returning permanently to headquarters.

As an extracurricular activity, although it sounds like the typical busman's holiday, he was the first chairman of the American Legion Citizens' Committee Recreation Commission which started the local recreation program in the town where he resides, North Plainfield, New Jersey, and was the first chairman and member of the Recreation Commission for ten years.

Commission Appointed...

GOVERNOR WARREN of California, on September 19, appointed seven members to the newly created California Recreation Commission. Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra, provost of the University of California at Los Angeles, has been named chairman of the Commission. Others who will serve as Commission members are: Mrs. Rollin Brown of Hollywood, State President of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers; Anderson Borthwick of San Diego, Chamber of Commerce member and civic leader; Gareth W. Houk of Visalia, Y.M.C.A. and Boy Scout leader and chairman of the Visalia Recreation Commission; Claude H. Adams, Merced civic leader and former district attorney; Alvin Gruhn of Eureka, vice-president of the California State Federation of Labor; and Mrs. Bartlett B. Heard of Berkeley, past president of the National Y.W.C.A. and member of the youth division of the National Social Welfare Assembly. A State Director of Recreation will be appointed at a later date.

The County Helps . . .

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, is the center of an organization for recreation on a county-wide basis. The Kern County Recreation and Cultural Commission was set up as an agency of county government in January 1945 with a full-time director. Its purpose is to assist townships, school districts and incorporated communities to establish their own recreation programs, to help such communities with budgets, program expansion and physical facilities. Two towns in the county, Bakersfield and Taft, have separate year-round programs of their own.

The Commission was the answer to a long felt need for the development of cultural and recreational facilities in Kern County. It was brought into being after several years of volunteer planning and effort by civic-minded citizens under the aegis of the Kern County Chamber of Commerce. Its first undertaking was a study of needs in local communities and in the county as a whole. To this end the Commission set up community and regional committees, and on the basis of information brought in by these groups recommended policies and procedures that were practical and economically sound.

Under the provisions of California's Community Recreation Act cities, counties and school districts in the state are authorized to pool their resources to organize, promote and conduct such community recreation programs as will contribute to recreational and educational objectives for the children and adults of the state. With this authority, the Commission drew up a plan for the best use of funds, facilities and personnel. The County Board of Supervisors set up a finance plan that enabled a community to establish a recreation program administered and operated locally on a fund matching basis.

Such community action is entirely voluntary. Wherever such a program is set up, however, there must be a local public administrative authority, authorized for incorporated areas by the city council and legally established for unincorporated areas. During the first year of the Commission's existence 27 communities instituted local programs.

County-wide Activities

In addition to the local setups, there have developed activities which belong to the whole county. Such, for instance, is the Kern Philharmonic Orchestra which, in its first season, played five concerts.

The orchestra has a four-fold purpose. It provides its members with an opportunity to study and play the best orchestral music. It gives students the opportunity to continue music experiences begun in high school and college orchestras. It offers mature musicians the chance to play together for recreation. And it brings good music to the listeners in the county.

The orchestra is managed by a board of directors which is county-wide in its representation. Two of its members are appointed by the musicians union. Musical leadership comes from a paid conductor and from professional musicians who form the musical framework of the group.

Such leadership costs money, and in order to insure this basic necessity a foundation fund was sought. In six weeks, without publicity or fanfare, an efficient finance committee raised \$10,000 in \$100 gifts. With this sum securing the initial expenses, the orchestra is expected to become, hereafter, self-supporting.

Future Plans

With the orchestra well established, the Commission has now turned its thoughts to other activities. A philharmonic chorus will be formed as an appendage to the orchestra, and plans are going forward for a junior artists bureau to encourage young artists.

The Bakersfield Art Association and the Kern County Library are cooperating with the Commission in sending art exhibits traveling all over the county. The regional cultural activities committee sponsored a fine arts festival in the spring of 1947.

To forward the cause of physical recreation the regional committee for tournaments sponsored tournaments in marbles, ping-pong and tennis early in 1947.

This is, surely, an impressive program for an agency which is a bare two years old. It bears witness to what energy teamed with intelligent planning can accomplish for recreation on a county-wide scale.

James S. Plant

FOR MANY YEARS James S. Plant was one of the best and truest friends of the National Recreation Association. He had thought through the philosophy of recreation and of leisure as only a few men have. His presence at various Recreation Congress gatherings was deeply appreciated by the recreation workers of the country. Dr. Plant was one of the pioneers who helped to build the foundations of the National Recreation Association.

WORLD AT PLAY

Only for Children

A LANDLORD in Denver, Colorado, not only prefers tenants with children, he also provides parties and games to keep junior entertained. In addition to providing a haven for 18 veterans, their wives and 19 children, the landlord gathers the youngsters together on the second floor stairway of his apartment house and treats them to Mickey Mouse movies, ice cream or a storytelling session. The building has safety banisters to keep the boys and girls on the carpeted stairs and the only exit they can use leads to a half-block square playground with recreation facilities.

Radio Fairyland

ONE of Aesop's Fables has been dramatized on the radio each Sunday afternoon for children of Los Angeles. The program has been arranged by the Los Angeles City College radio department after an extensive survey was made of the needs in the radio field. "Fun with Fables," as the series is called, also has the approval of the radio department of the Tenth District Parent-Teacher Association.

Wide Scale Project

LOS ANGELES is still working on its unusual \$40,000,000 building project designed to make the city an outstanding cultural center and to serve aesthetic and practical purposes as well. The program plans for a

30,000 seat auditorium and an opera house seating 6,000—envisioned as the future "second home" of the Metropolitan Opera Company. The project, conceived as a war memorial, is sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Plans, Inc., a non-profit combination of business and civic leaders.

Conference on the Theatre

LEADERS from both the professional and non-professional theatre will attend the Eastern Theatre Conference to be held October 18 and 19 at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware. Delegates are being invited from a six state area to discuss the problems of the stage and participate in the discussions, demonstrations, forums and symposiums planned for this initial regional conference. The conference is sponsored by the Uni-



Courtesy Recreation Commission, Newburgh, N. Y.

versity Dramatic Center and the Delaware Dramatic Association.

One Year Old—One of the first playgrounds constructed by the Lions Club of David, Republic of Panama, for its city's children, will soon be a year old. Erected as part of the club's community improvement program, the playground was the first of four planned, one in the city itself and three others in the suburbs. The Lions Club also organized a parents' assembly, similar to the Parent-Teachers Association of the United States, which has had some very successful and well-attended meetings.

Magazine for Patients—An In-Bed Club Magazine was developed by the Recreation Association of Lancaster, Virginia. Articles, poems, skits, drawings and biographies, contributed by a number of bedded patients, were compiled and mimeographed by the Girls' Worker in the recreation office and then circulated every two months among a large group of "shut-ins." The Girls' Worker also made personal calls on members of the group collecting articles and bringing news of outside events.

Designed for Fun—"The Spirit of Youth" is a work of sculpture that was designed to attract and interest New York children. Depicting two girls at play, the playground centerpiece was carved by an instructor in sculpture at Columbia University "so that kids can hang on it, touch it and play in it." The arms and legs of the figures are fashioned "much like branches of a tree, inviting the youngsters to climb all over them." The centerpiece was planned for one of two playgrounds which have been under construction in East Harlem.

Picturesque Red School Houses—The little red school house is going to have flowers, trees and shrubs added to its background of history and romance. A nationwide contest to encourage clean-up and beautification of rural school grounds is being launched by the National Garden Institute. The contest is being channeled through state and county school superintendents or supervisors. Teachers and principals are appointing committees of boys and girls to do the planting and solicit funds and plants. The contest ends May 31, 1948, but entry blanks must be filed not later than the fifteenth of October. Awards will be presented to the school groups which achieve the most improved landscaping results and teachers in the winning schools will receive honorary certificates.

Looking Back to Summer Days—Wilmington, Delaware, had its share of fun and entertainment during the summer months. Outdoor dances were held in front of swimming pools and gymnasiums, back of schools and on the streets. Band concerts were held in the parks, and playgrounds conducted basketry, sewing and handcraft classes, encouraged softball, badminton and volleyball games, and planned special events such as hobo days, picnic days, beach days, movies, community sings and tournaments. Dances, concerts and activities were sponsored by Wilmington's local recreation committees, schools, PTA's, the park commission, civic organizations and other groups.

Take Us Out to the Ball Game—A total of 300,000 boys and girls visited major league baseball parks for 48 big league games this summer under the supervision of the Police Athletic League. Every Saturday was youngsters' day during the spring school term, and during July and August vacation months PALS were able to see the Yankees, Dodgers or Giants in action almost every weekday and Saturday afternoon.

More Fields for More Play—Development of more than 4,600 acres of playing fields is the goal of the County of London plan. The idea behind this plan is to enable every school child to have access to some field for games, sports and activities. For most secondary schools there are to be large fields with classrooms in the Green Belt where the children can spend one day each week. Primary schools are to depend largely on encampments in parks. There are at present over 600 acres of playing fields in and outside the county, plus the equivalent of 800 acres in London parks. An additional 1,000 acres have already been acquired in the Green Belt and another 1,400 acres in London are expected when the plan takes effect.



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Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

- Children's Religion*, September 1947
Glass Jar Gardens, Verna Grisier McCully
- The Crippled Child*, August 1947
Camp for City Kids, Mrs. Blanch Mulder
- Sunset*, September 1947
When the Yard Belongs to Johnny and Mary
- Parks and Recreation*, September 1947
Community Outdoor Theatre Planning, A. F. Lindberg
Oakes Garden Theatre, John Oakes
The Maintenance Mart
- Shore and Beach*, April 1947
Beach Preservation Laws and Programs
- The American City*, August 1947
Swimming Pools as War Memorials, Wesley Bintz
- Beach and Pool*, August 1947
Successful Chlorination of Pool Water, R. N. Perkins
- The Nation's Schools*, August 1947
Secondary Schoolhouse Planning
- Parents Magazine*
Things a Child Can Make and Do, Rhoda W. Bacmeister
Backyard Sergeant, Rosalind Bacon Hall
Youth Serves the Community, Mary Dabney
- Journal of Living*, September 1947
Why Not Try Music? Ruth Brindze

PAMPHLETS

- Youth Figured Out*, by John E. Robbins (A statistical study of Canadian youth)
Canadian Youth Commission, 245 Cooper Street, Ottawa, Canada. \$.50
- United We Play*
American Junior Red Cross, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Chicago's Teen Age Canteens*, compiled by James W. Gilman
Youth Service Committee, Rotary Club of Chicago, 156 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill. \$.50
- World Minority Problems*, by James G. Leyburn
Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. \$.20
- Camp Leadership Training Institutes*
Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.
- Introduction to Camp Leadership* (Syllabus)
Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.
- State Parks and Related Recreational Areas*
National Park Service, Washington, D. C.
- Toward Professional Standards*
American Association of Group Workers, 134 East 56th Street, New York 22, N. Y. \$1.50
- City Plan, Idaho Falls, Idaho*
S. R. DeBoer and Co., 515 E. Iliff Avenue, Denver, Colorado
- Youth Services in Kern County*
California Youth Authority, Sacramento, California

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Keep Fit In an Ancient Manor

By EDWARD J. MACDONALD

VISITORS to this medieval manor house in England think of Mark Twain when they see ball games on the lawns by the river and indoors watch modern dancing in the ballroom or young men and women in shorts assembling for meals where Knights Templar met in chapter approximately 700 years ago.

The manor house, Bisham Abbey on the banks of the Thames, with its twelfth century hall, has been put to modern use as the first national recreation center of the Central Council of Physical Recreation in Britain.

Bisham Abbey, built originally in semi-monastic style by the Knights Templar, who were founded to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land, was partly rebuilt in the sixteenth century as a manor house. Its present owner has lent it to the council as a memorial to her two nephews who would have inherited it but who were killed in World War II.

Here young people spend their annual holidays under the guidance of expert leaders who show them the finer points of boxing, rowing, gymnastics, swimming, football if they are boys, the best forms of keep-fit exercises, river sports, tennis, hockey, netball or dancing if they are girls. Here, too, members of youth organizations enjoy special courses which give them an all-around knowledge of sports and other forms of physical recreation, and enable them on return to instruct others.

Ends and Aims

There is nothing haphazard or arbitrary about the courses given at Bisham Abbey. They all form part of a scheme for coaching that eliminates the boredom of ordinary physical training exercises and substitutes simple rhythmic movement and sports particularly valuable to physical training. In addition,

courses are given for industrial welfare of officers who learn what sports and exercises correct faults due to prolonged standing at work or repetitive actions required by mass production, and who learn also the best method of lifting heavy weights and the types of exercises that are best calculated to increase general fitness and alertness, thus reducing the danger of accidents.

The success of the first year's work at Bisham Abbey has encouraged the Central Council of Physical Recreation to experiment in other ways. This spring the council's national sports development fund is being inaugurated in London to finance similar recreation centers within easy reach of all large centers of population, to continue experiments in industry and to promote the exchange of information and visits with similar organizations and with individuals in other countries throughout the world.

Founded in 1935 under Royal patronage and with a membership representative of 84 leading British sports organizations, the central council has worked in close cooperation with government departments "to promote the mental and physical well-being of the community." Recognizing the aid it can bring to education, the Ministry of Education awards an annual grant of about \$250,000 to the council, which received a further grant during the war from the Ministry of Labor to assist the council's work in industry.

Recreation—Education

The educational aspect of the council's activities has taken on increased importance since 1944—



Courtesy Hereward Phillips Ltd.

for, with the passing of the new Education Act, many facilities can be provided under official auspices for those who have passed the former school-leaving age. This means that high quality coaching, once reserved to college students and professionals, is now available to anyone who wishes to take advantage of it.

As a result, those who watch major football, boxing or other matches have a finer appreciation of the skill they see displayed. More important is the fact that young people develop a keenness for playing themselves.

The secret of success lies in this: that, so far from attempting compulsion in the training of young people, the Central Council of Physical Recreation, working through 11 regional centers and through many voluntary youth organizations in the country, provides opportunity which brings about demand. There is nothing of the parade-ground about the exercises taught. Indeed there is a positive emphasis on the advantage, say, of ball-room dancing as an all-round form of exercise over the "knee-bend" style of training described in the British schoolroom as "physical jerks" (physical training).

If the taste of the modern Briton is for mountaineering or camping, canoeing, boxing, wrestling, football, cricket or netball he or she will find that each has its place in the courses given by the central council. Today there are 157 constituent organizations, with a membership ranging from the national governing bodies of athletics, football and cricket to those of table tennis and the now popular sport of bicycle polo.

It seems likely that a sports display covering a wide range of pastimes will be presented as an additional attraction during the Olympic Games in London next year.

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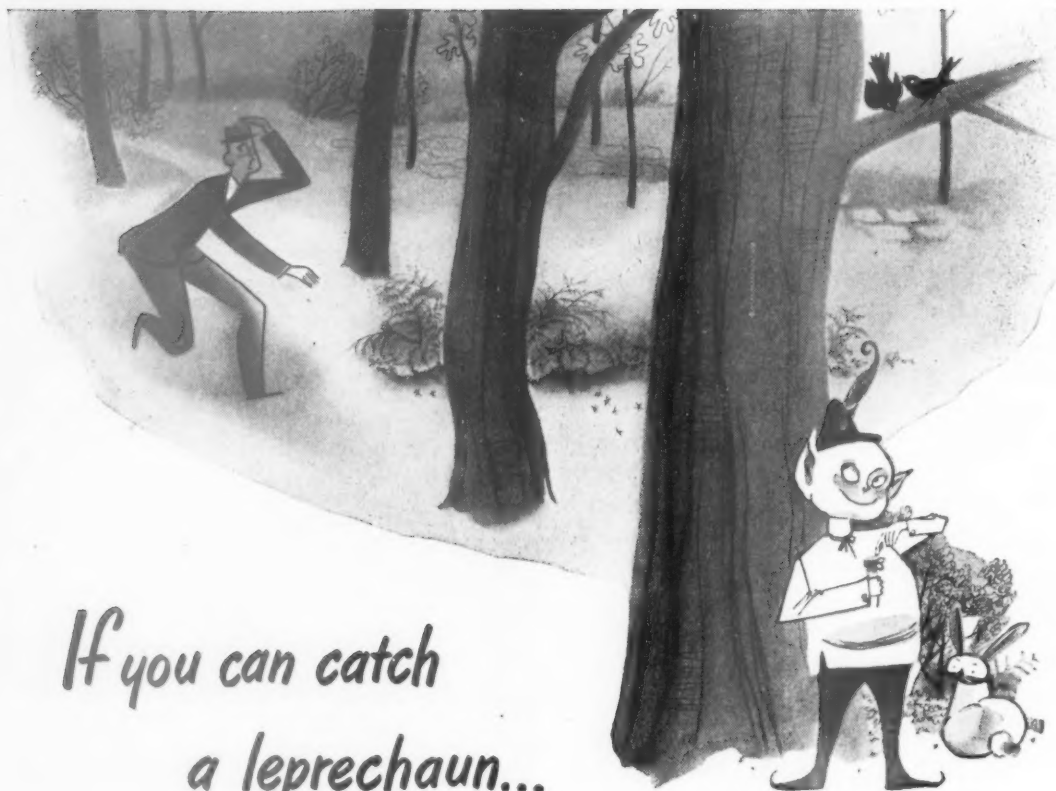
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Books Received

Footnotes on Nature, by John Kieran. Doubleday Doran, Inc., Garden City, New York. \$3.00

Junior-Hi Kit No. 4, edited by Clyde Allison. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, Pa. \$2.50

Massage in Athletics, by Albert J. Baumgartner. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota. \$2.25

More Fun with Puzzles, by Joseph Leeming. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Pa. \$2.50

Official Football Guide 1947. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York, N. Y. \$.50

Problems of Child Delinquency, by Maud A. Merrill. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. \$3.50

Robert Schumann and Mascot Ziff, by Opal Wheeler. E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., New York, N. Y. \$2.75

For Rural Teachers—Creative art workshops for rural teachers are conducted by the University of Nebraska under a grant of \$6,000 from the Carnegie Corporation. Each workshop offers three hours of lectures on local art resources and different techniques and demonstration of the use of materials. In addition, there is a three hour laboratory period in which the teachers can practice painting, clay modeling, finger painting, design, stenciling, handcraft and any of the several kinds of creative arts included in the workshop program.

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Handbook of Private Schools

The above are the Introductions to the last two editions. The 30th edition, 1072 pages, red silk cloth, \$6.00, critically describes Private Schools. "It gives concise and critical information about each of the thousands of schools it discusses," *New York Sun*.

"WAR AND EDUCATION," 512 pages, black velum, \$4.00; "BETWEEN TWO WARS." The Failure of Education 1920-1940," 615 pages, black morocco cloth, \$5.00; "THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION," 256 pages, red silk cloth, \$2.00.

Write for Circulars and Table of Contents of these and other volumes still available, and announcements of forthcoming books.

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Compiled and arranged by Hugh Ross. G. Schirmer Inc., New York. \$1.50.

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This Is Photography

By Thomas H. Miller and Wyatt Brummitt. Garden City Publishing Company, Inc., New York. \$2.00.

THE "MEANS" OF PHOTOGRAPHY—processes and equipment for taking pictures—and the "ends" of photography—better photographs—are complex but intriguing subjects. Thomas H. Miller, Eastman Kodak supervisor of employee photographic training, and Wyatt Brummitt, writer and editor for the Eastman Company, have written a book that will interest anyone who has ever made pictures and who wants to learn more about the how's and why's of photography. This book is not a condescending primer or an overwhelming collection of technicalities. It offers the fundamentals of photography in an informal, instructive style with plenty of illustrations and emphasis on the personal approach. You and your camera, tricks of the trade, enlarging, making the most of color photography, taking and processing pictures and what to do with them afterwards are just a preview of the very wide range of photographic topics discussed.

America's Stamps

By Maud and Miska Petersham. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$3.50.

AMERICA'S STAMPS is the story of one hundred years of United States postage stamps. It is not a stamp catalogue, but a pictorial literature of American history—the story of our country's struggles for survival and development as shown by its stamp issues. Stamps on letters carried by the pony express riders, Confederate stamps of 1861-64, the stamp commemorating Lindbergh's first nonstop flight from New York to Paris, the air mail stamp of 1946—they're all included. The important dramatic stories behind stamps, tales of why and when they were issued and reproductions of the stamps complete this beautifully illustrated record.

Acrobatics for All

By Erwin F. Beyer. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. \$3.00.

IF YOUR ARDOR FOR AEROBATICS has ever been dampened by an uncomfortable fall or by lack-of-balance-out-of-position results, you will welcome this opportunity to learn acrobatics safely and correctly. *Acrobatics for All* provides basic, safe instructions for the attainment of gymnastic skill. Every stunt is accompanied by step-by-step photographs and detailed descriptions of the important role of the "spotter"—the assistant who stands by to prevent injury to the performers. Part I of this book offers the reader instructions in the development of an acrobatic repertoire of basic acrobatic movements and of beginning, intermediate and advanced couple movements. Part II explains how exhibition routines can be developed and presents the author's assembly-line technique of teaching whereby members of a group may all practice at the same time.

Community Wise

By Edna H. Porter. The Womens Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York. 75 cents.

THIS IS A VERY HANDY loose leaf, pocket-size notebook for lay and professional educational, religious and social workers to record from time to time the information they gather about the community in which they work. It is not a survey outline. It makes possible a running inventory of a community and the recording of impressions of the worker as well as the bare physical facts gathered. Sources of information are given and a small supply of blank sheets included for use as needed.

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